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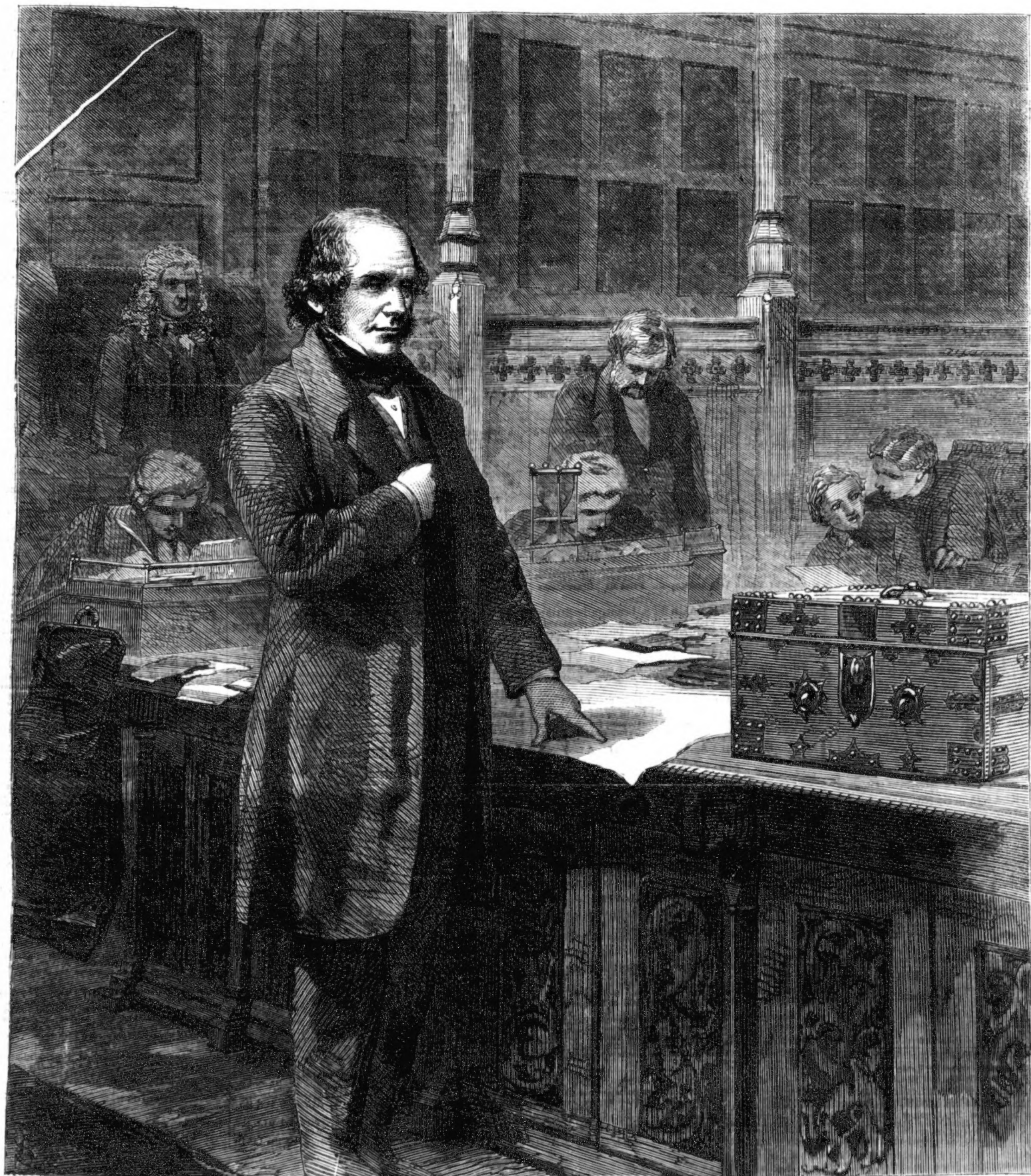
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LORD JOHN'S REFORM BILL.

WE seriously believe that only a small portion of the British public is even aware of, much less excited about, the fact that in little more than a week the British Constitution is to be taken in hand for improvement. There are great excuses for the prevailing indifference on the subject. In the first place, we can all see that a new period has set in in European politics. The revolution is moving again, not, as in 1848, bridleless and aimless, like a wild ass, but mounted by a Bonaparte, and ridden with mischievous skill. Italy is the immediate arena of the performance, and Savoy is about to be the first solid prize of the roughrider. But the process is so alarming that every nation is on the look-out for its safety, and England is spending millions every year to secure hers. Now, at certain crises of our history this agitation, with revolution at its bottom, would have operated badly on our internal politics. Our own demagogues would have improved the occasion by urging that we, too, ought to go in for more "Liberty," and that, while poverty and ignorance were rampant in Tuscan elections, it was hard that they should not have it all their own way in English

ones. But the English people know more about the business than it used to do, and has a wholesome contempt for that sort of license or sham liberty which produces the ascendancy of tyrants and soldiers. Besides, it is getting uneasy as to the future importance of England, in case every year is to alter some treaty which England "helped to impose, and pledged herself to maintain." So, what with the distraction of foreign politics as an excitement, and the disrepute into which their present aspect has brought revolution generally, Reform Bills are a kind of paper not much esteemed in the market. It is not that the existing constitutional machinery is thought perfect, but that there is other business to do besides improving it; while a notion also exists that the kind of changes proposed make no such great difference to the masses as the masses once fancied they would. Lord John Russell seems to feel this, and was careful the other night to introduce the announcement of his measure with a tame constitutional preamble. "He disclaimed any intention of attempting to replace the ancient and glorious Constitution of the country," and that in the hearing of Mr. Bright, who once quoted with approbation somebody who called it "a

canted and extolled humbug." We quite believe Lord John; for the said Constitution is chiefly disliked by those who dislike it for giving to individuals such advantages as those which have made his Lordship a Minister. We know, too, that he, in particular—a poor speaker, an ordinary administrator—has extra reasons for gratitude to the venerable edifice. But why, then, does he come forward, again and again, to touch the edifice up, and insist on its improvement? Why endeavour to improve upon what is already "glorious"? The answer is easy. First of all, he does not meditate (if he can help it) making very vital changes injurious to his order; and therefore, secondly, the éclat of affecting to do so is so much clear gain to himself personally. He reasons in his own mind somewhat in this fashion:—"My changes will practically leave the House of Commons much what it is, but their tendency is towards the kind of thing which A or B (my extreme friends) clamour for; and I get the double advantage of practical Conservatism and democratic reputation." Here, then, is a basis for the bill. In details, something must be done to avoid a likeness to Lord Derby's one, and to conciliate A or B above mentioned; and



LORD JOHN RUSSELL LAYING THE NEW REFORM BILL ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

then (the House being lukewarm on the subject) we shall probably get rid of it for some time.

Reflections of this sort were evidently floating through his Lordship's mind when he planned the measure, the second reading of which was fixed for the 19th inst. All the pocket boroughs are to remain intact, to begin with. Calne and Arundel at their head. Nothing is said of electoral districts, or of the ballot, or of any addition to the existing metropolitan boroughs. The second seats doctored from small towns will be given partly to towns likely to return just the same sort of men as those already returned by their neighbours, partly to others where the third seat so created will serve to represent a minority. There remains, as the only serious innovations, the franchise changes. The £10 occupation franchise will widen the number of voters without changing the character of the constituencies in the main. The £6 one in boroughs will have more marked effects, but still can hardly be expected to make any great difference in the character of the members elected. In short, the plan bears all the marks of having been made to the measure of the existing House—tailor fashion. It is as small a concession to real democracy as could well be, considering that it hopes for the support of Mr. Bright. But it adopts from the Bright school one provision which distinguishes it from the Derby bill—the rejection of “fancy franchises” in favour of a simple degradation of the present standard of suffrage.

To our minds, this last is one of its most objectionable features. “Fancy franchise” may be sneered at by some folk (who sneer at most things occasionally), but they open the door of the suffrage to a much better class than the £6 voters will be found to be; for, when all romance is flung on one side, the sixpounder (except in the case of a reading mechanic here and there) is simply a man £4 worse off per annum in point of independence and education than the existing voter. He may be as honest and patriotic, and it may be a farce to think that he will make a worse choice of a member than the present man; but we doubt if either of them is as fit for the suffrage as many a hundred persons disqualified at present for voting by happening to pay three times as much rent as they do—in lodgings. It would be worth inquiring, by the way, how many of the volunteers are of the lodger class; it would be curious to find that a great number of them were thought worthy to choose who should lead them in defending their country without being in the position of helping to choose the members of its Legislature.

As another sign how little the ordinary declaimers in favour of Reform are considered by Lord John Russell we may instance his extending the “rate-paying clauses” (those favourite bugbears of many a parochial bore) to his new voters. No sixpounder will vote unless he has paid his rates by this measure. And, as Lord John informs us that a large percentage of the existing number of electors has to be deducted for the non-payment of rates and taxes, many of the new electors will, probably, never make use of their privilege. We dare say his Lordship had this in calculation when planning a moderate measure; and, indeed, the fact is a curious symptom of indifference on the part of the people to their political rights.

The country must be prepared, we suppose, for long debates—even duller than those of last year—on the bill under review; and “Hansard” is so little read that even a feeble version of arguments exhausted in 1831-32 is welcome pabulum to many minds. Let us hope that some Reform Bill may find its way into law during the Session, anyhow; and that the grave symptoms which meet us on all hands in foreign affairs may pass away without giving us more serious and unpleasant questions to discuss.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* says:—“Some German papers announce that the French artillery has been increased by the creation of three new regiments. The fact is, the number of batteries having been reduced, the artillery has in reality undergone a reduction.”

The Cardinals and Prelates who are members of the French Senate have presented to the House petitions demanding the maintenance of the temporal power of the Pope.

SAVOY AND NICE.

We have reports of demonstrations, in a twofold sense, which took place at Nice on Sunday, on the occasion of the anniversary of the promulgation of the Sardinian Constitution. The Sardinian party made a demonstration in the Italian theatre against, and the French party in the French theatre for, annexation. The Parisian journals which give these reports say that the Italian theatre was comparatively empty, but that the French theatre, where the “Ode Napoléonienne” and the “Reine Hortense” were sung by the public, was full. The position which the Sardinian Government takes towards these antagonistic movements is indicated by the fact that the Governor of Nice has rewarded the editor of the anti-annexionist journal of Nice by transferring to his paper the official advertisements hitherto monopolised by the *Nizzardo*.

The (Catholic) clergy of Chambéry, in Savoy, with their Bishop at their head, have protested, in a public address, against the project of annexation to Switzerland. That nation is Calvinist.

The Austrian Government is said to have replied to certain inquiries made by foreign Powers that, its interests not being directly affected by the annexation of Savoy to France, it would observe on this question the same passive conduct which the great Powers exhibited at the time of the last war in Lombardy; and that Austria will not protest against the annexation of Savoy.

SPAIN AND MOROCCO.

There is no news of importance from the seat of war in Morocco. General Echague has advanced from Seraillo, but it is not known what exact direction he has taken. An engagement is said to have taken place between two Kabyle tribes in the neighbourhood of Tetuan. The tribe favourable to the Spaniards was victorious.

The *Epoca* and the *Occidente*, Ministerial papers, assert that to preserve the territory conquered in Africa would entail on Spain sacrifices greater than the advantages she would obtain. The *Espana* mentions a report that the French Ambassador had been instructed by his Government to observe strict neutrality in the question of Morocco, whatever may be the attitude of the English Cabinet.

ITALY.

SARDINIA.

The King of Sardinia is said to have informed the Pope that he cannot any longer turn a deaf ear to the cry of distress which reaches him from the Umbrian Marches, the country west of the Apennines, and lying between the refractory Legations and Rome itself, and that he intends to occupy them; to which offensive proposal the Pope is said to have replied with a threat of excommunication.

A circular of Count Cavour to the diplomatic agents of Sardinia abroad, dated the 20th of February, calls their attention to an order for the forced enlistment into companies of penitentiary discipline of all Venetians whose antecedents should appear hostile to Austria. Count Cavour points out that the elasticity of this expression allows the whole male population to be classed in this category. M. Cavour has also

noticed, in a similar manner, a circular of the Imperial Councillor of Mantua, ordering the arrests of persons who favour, or are suspected of favouring, the emigration of Venetians. Count Cavour states that this system of presumption of guilt has been extended to persons included in the amnesty guaranteed by the treaty of Zurich, and believes it to be his duty to protest against a course of action involving the destruction of the stipulations of this treaty.

A batch of senators from Lombardy has been added to the Upper House at Turin by the King, and among them Italy's most distinguished living author, the venerable Alessandro Manzoni. It is meant that he be elected President of the Chamber.

ROME.

Great excitement prevails in the Marches. Tricoloured flags have been hoisted nightly at Viterbo. It is asserted that the Papal Government is preparing a note accusing Piedmontese agents of exciting the inhabitants.

The alterations between the Papal Government and the students of the University of Rome, said to be appeased some time ago, have broken out afresh. Eight of the young men have been banished from Rome, and the whole body of their fellow-students insist upon the decree being rescinded. General Goyon has sent a detachment of troops to the university to prevent disturbances.

A popular manifestation of no importance in favour of annexation to Piedmont has taken place in Gubbio.

The Pope is said to be ready to grant concessions if the Legations submit. His Government has prohibited commerce by transit between Ancona and the Romagna. The merchants have lodged a protest against this measure.

Soldiers enlisted in Austria continue to arrive in the States of the Church and in Naples.

A letter from Rome of the 28th ult. says:—“The carnival has terminated in all the provinces of the Roman States. At Perugia a demonstration, consisting in a promenade to the cemetery on the last day of the carnival, was organised, and in consequence of it the shops were shut up; but General Schmit caused the gates of the town to be closed to prevent egress, and ordered the shops to be opened, an order which was immediately obeyed.” Another communication gives a different version of the affair:—“An imposing demonstration of some thousands of persons took place lately here. It was provoked by the Swiss officers, who determined to have a masquerade on the day chosen by the population to show their respect for the victims of the 20th June. The crowd of people, when quietly proceeding to the cemetery, were driven back into the town by the Swiss soldiers, with the design of forcing them to take part in the masquerade. The people refused to do anything of the kind, and retired home, leaving the Swiss mercenaries and Cardinal Pecci to enjoy their carnival alone in the deserted streets. On the following day numbers of tricoloured bouquets were found on the tombs, with patriotic inscriptions appealing to King Victor Emmanuel to come and take possession of his province of Perugia.”

NAPLES.

A telegram, dated March 3, says:—“A great display of military took place here on the 1st inst. Some persons of high distinction have been arrested. It is stated that several noblemen are about to be exiled. Activity prevails in the arsenals day and night. Letters from Sicily announce that the Attorney-General at Messina had been murdered, and that a fulminating bomb had been thrown at the director of the police, by which two persons were wounded.” On the other hand, we are told that a partial amnesty has been accorded. A Royal decree allows fifty-two political exiles to return to their homes, although attempts had been made to intimidate the young King by raising a report that conspiracies against his life were being concocted.

BAVARIA.

The ex-King Ludwig has addressed the following letter to the committee for erecting a monument to Arndt:—

MUNICH, Feb. 22.
I contribute joyfully towards a monument for Arndt, the more joyfully as the statue of bronze is to be placed on the left bank of the Rhine of him who stood firm as bronze when storms swept over Germany. His writings gave consolation and strength when our beloved country was overrun by the enemy. That was half a century ago, and such a time now again threatens us; may it find all Germans united! Again will his words give us courage and strengthen us. I enclose 500 florins to the committee. It is a praiseworthy and honourable task they have in hand to be occupied with Arndt's monument. With respect, LUDWIG.

AUSTRIA.

Austria may now be considered as having ceased to be an absolute monarchy. An Imperial patent has been published ordering the augmentation of the Imperial Council by extraordinary councillors, who are to be assembled periodically. The Emperor himself will appoint for life as members of the council the Archdukes, the clerical dignitaries, and some distinguished persons belonging to the civil and military branches. The Provincial Diets are to propose thirty-eight members, subject to the approval of the Emperor, who will choose every member from a list of three candidates presented by the Diets. These members will take their place in the Council for six years. Until the convocation of the Provincial Diets, the Emperor will complete the Council of the Empire by appointing persons of great distinction on the basis of population.

RUSSIA.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* gives an official denial to the statement relative to an alliance between Russia and Austria.

In certain governments the opposition of the nobles to the emancipation of the serfs is said to become more and more decided. In that of Wladimir a great number of nobles have signed an address to the Emperor, praying that, as a compensation for what they will lose by the emancipation, civil equality shall be established between all citizens, and that trial by jury, liberty of the press, and other liberties, shall be accorded. “This,” says a correspondent, “is perhaps acting rather hastily; but it cannot be denied that there is a certain degree of logic in the demand of the Russian nobles that emancipation shall not be confined to the serfs.”

AMERICA.

The correspondence with the English Government touching the north-western boundary line has been resumed, each party claiming a clear title to the island of San Juan. It was thought probable at Washington that the question would be settled by England taking the island and yielding some other point as a satisfactory equivalent.

A grand demonstration was to take place at Washington, on the 22nd ult., in honour of Washington's birthday and the inauguration of an equestrian statue of the hero. The House of Representatives had appropriated 10,000 dollars to defray the expenses of the event.

The United States' Senate had ratified the treaty of amity and commerce with Paraguay.

From San Francisco the chief news is that upwards of 100,000 signatures had been appended to a petition to the Legislature to prevent the emigration of the Chinese.

The Governor of Kansas had vetoed the bill abolishing slavery, but the Legislature had brought up the bill again.

The New Orleans correspondent of the *New York Herald* gives an outline of a scheme for the acquisition of Mexico, and states as probable that General Houston is now en route for Rio Grande, backed by a large force of Texans, to carry the scheme into execution.

INDIA.

THE CHINA EXPEDITION.

In consequence of the dispatch from home of troops for the China expedition several of the regiments detailed in the accounts by the last mail as destined for China from the Bengal Presidency have been countermanded.

LORD CANNING'S PROGRESS.

Lord Canning, we learn from a north-west contemporary, held a grand durbar in Umballah at noon on the 19th of January, at which

the Maharajah of Puttealah, the Rajah of Jheend, and a large assemblage of other princes and nobles were present. The scene is described as having been very grand and impressive.

DISTURBANCE AT HYDERABAD.

A serious disturbance has broken out in the city of the Nizam, such as has not been known there for several years past. A correspondent of a Calcutta contemporary, writing from Hyderabad on the 3rd of January, furnishes the following particulars:—

Messrs Futeh Ali, a half-brother of the late Nasir-ood-Dowla, and uncle to the present Sovereign, was directed by the Government not to purchase a house and garden situated within the jurisdiction of the English Residency, as liable to make a difficulty by bringing the Prince into collision with it. The seller of the house, a Sahookar, was forbid to put him in possession; but, as the bargain had proceeded to the length of the Prince paying a sum of money on account, the Prince insisted upon the completion of the purchase; and, as the means of effecting his object, seized upon the Sahookar, whose life he threatened, and abruptly took possession of the Nukkar Khana of an Ashoor Khana, posting within it, and within a lofty pavilion of his commanding a principal street of the city, Arabs and Rohillas. His strength in military retainers, whom he had for a considerable time continued to keep in his pay, consisted, conjointly with the guard of sepoy assigned to him by the Government, of something less than 200 men. He fortified and loopholed these two posts. The Nizam's Government posted its troops on the opposite side in the street. The Prince, who is not a calculator of consequences, and has never appeared but as defying the power of the Government, aware of the advantage of his position (for I am not informed of any other reason for his doing so), fired upon the opposite party. He had it all his own way; his men were not exposed, and his fire took place with so much effect upon the opposing party and the poor inhabitants of the city that the Government soldiers were constrained to put themselves under shelter. The intention was by all possible means to avoid any personal injury being sustained by the Prince; guns were posted against his house, but not fired. For twenty-four hours the Prince disposed of things as he pleased. About twenty persons, his assailants and city inhabitants, were shot down. It was time to put an end to this; but still, not taking advantage of the strength of his guns gave it, the Government directed its troops to escalate the main building, the Ashoor Khana, which they did without opposition, and the Prince's party in the Nukkar Khana became exposed to their fire. Four men were shot, and the Nukkar Khana was evacuated. The pavilion was forced similarly, and the troops which had surrounded the Prince's house pressing closely upon it—indeed, gaining its outer courts—he waved his handkerchief, to which immediate obedience was paid by the Government troops, and the firing ceased. A negotiation to adjust the dispute is said to be going on.

SURRENDER OF THE BEGUM.

The *Lucknow Herald* says it has news from the frontiers to the effect that Jung Bahadoor has surrendered the Begum and her son Burjees Kadr unconditionally, without any stipulation for their maintenance; and that they have arrived at Gonda, and will be sent on to Lucknow. Should this news be confirmed, there is no longer any rebel leader in the field, of high or low degree, in Nepal. There appears, however, to be a cause for regret in another quarter. The *Oude Gazette* hears that tidings have been received at head-quarters of “a feeling of discontent still lingering in the minds of the remnant of the late Company's European troops, especially the Artillery. It has transpired that several of them, in different parts, have been in correspondence, urging each other to agitate for the bounty. To put down this spirit of insubordination Government has resolved upon some most stringent measures, which the ringleaders will be shortly made to feel.”

THE WUZZUREE EXPEDITION.

The object of the expedition sent against the Wuzzerees has been accomplished, and the murderer of the late Captain Mechem has been surrendered. He had been slightly wounded by his captors. He has confessed to having been the chief agent in the murder.

MR. WILSON'S FINANCIAL PLANS.

The Right Hon. James Wilson arrived in Calcutta on the 24th of January, and a Council was held next day, at which some important financial questions were discussed. A Calcutta journal understands that the question of a paper circulation is under consideration, in the form of a Government note, bearing a small interest, which would, it is stated, meet the views of the natives on this subject.

NEW RAILWAY WORKS.

The Madras Government have sanctioned the expenditure of 7,01,440 rupees, the estimated cost of twenty-three miles three chains of railway, in district No. 2 of the North-west Line. The district lies wholly in North Arcot, and is not remarkable for large bridges or any extraordinary amount of cutting and embankments.

AUSTRALIA.

The political record from Victoria contains no incidents of importance. The situation remains unchanged.

The revenue returns for the year 1859 exhibit a highly satisfactory state of things in the Treasury. All the ordinary sources of income continue to be very prolific—subject, of course, to slight variations from year to year.

As to the goldfields, “the general opinion is,” says the *Melbourne Herald*, “that they have seen their worst, and that 1860 will show a very great increase. The various mining companies are only just getting to work; and their dams and other erections for the purpose of catching and retaining water have to a great extent been inoperative in consequence of the dry season. A new goldfield has been discovered at the head of the Yarra, in one of the western spurs of the Australian Alps; in a locality which, from the scrubby and rocky character of the country, had never been explored. Some black sand was analysed and found to be worth at the rate of £1600 per ton.

A CRISIS IN ITALIAN AFFAIRS.

THE FRENCH EMPEROR'S POLICY REVEALED.

SATURDAY'S *Moniteur* was occupied by M. Thouvenel with two elaborate despatches, wherein he expounds to the English and Sardinian Courts the plan of Italian policy which the Emperor of the French has at length resolved to adopt.

In his despatch to M. le Comte de Persigny, the French Ambassador to England, M. Thouvenel declines to join with England in Lord John Russell's programme. He points out that, while England has been but a spectator of the events which have led to the present situation, France has been an active belligerent; and he observes that, while England may resume her position as a looker-on, the Emperor is burdened with the responsibility of the consequences which may ensue from his armed action. M. Thouvenel, therefore, informs our Government that the Emperor has taken upon himself to inform the Court of Turin what his views and wishes are upon this question.

From this gentle snubbing we turn to the despatch of the same date which is addressed to M. le Baron de Talleyrand, the Minister of France at Turin. This is a much more lengthy and explanatory document. M. Thouvenel begins by informing Europe, in the person of M. de Talleyrand, that the time is now come when it is proper to make known to Sardinia what is the exact idea of the Emperor's Government upon the present grave and even solemn conjuncture of affairs. Sardinia may do as she pleases. England also may do as she pleases. France desires to compel no one to follow her; but she has come to certain conclusions which she means to abide by. The King of Sardinia is told that the popular feeling in Italy is not to be trusted by him—that it does not mean loyalty to Sardinia, but hostility to Austria. The aspirations of the Italians involve the conquest of Venetia and menace the States of the Church and the kingdom of the Two Sicilies. They involve also two probabilities equally to be avoided—war and revolution. If Sardinia should go alone onwards she must be prepared for the consequences into which these popular desires must force her; she must undertake a work out of proportion with her ordinary means, and she must become the agent of a policy which will no longer receive its impulse from Turin.

This being the case, M. Thouvenel has a plan to propound, of which the first proposition is that Sardinia shall have Lombardy, Parma, and Modena, with full power to weld them into one compact sovereignty

and to take no note of any former political divisions. The second proposition is that the King of Sardinia shall be the temporal administrator of the Legations of the Romagna, Ferrara, and Bologna, exercising his functions in the name of the Pope, and respecting those municipal institutions which are traditional in the Legations. The third proposition is that Tuscany shall retain her political and territorial individuality.

Such is M. Thouvenel's—or the Emperor's—programme for the ultimate settlement of this long-pending Italian question. If Sardinia is ready to accept this, the Emperor promises her that France will stand by her and back her up—"La Sardaigne serait sûr de nous avoir avec elle, et derrière elle"—if she should refuse it she will be left alone.

M. Thouvenel finishes with a word about Savoy and Nice. He tells Count Cavour plainly that "the possession of Savoy and the Comté de Nice (saving the interests of Switzerland) presents itself as a geographical necessity for the security of the French frontiers." At the same time France does not wish to force the will of the inhabitants; and the Government of the Emperor would not fail, when the moment should appear to him to have arrived, to consult previously the great Powers of Europe in order to prevent a false interpretation of the reasons which direct his conduct.

THE FRENCH POLICY OPPOSED BY SARDINIA.

We have not had long to wait for Count Cavour's reply to this statement of the Imperial policy, nor is it at all ambiguous. The Count says that, as the proposals originate with a Government which has so much right to expect the gratitude of Sardinia, the Sardinian Cabinet is naturally disposed to give them the most favourable reception. But the Government of his Majesty is, nevertheless, convinced that these proposals would meet with serious difficulties in their execution, which it would not be in the power of the Sardinian Government to vanquish. The solution proposed is much more advantageous for Italy than it was possible to expect immediately after the peace of Villafranca. At that time this solution would have been accepted by Central Italy without much reluctance. It is not the case at the present moment. The feeling of the population of Central Italy in regard to their right to be the arbiters of their own destiny has been strongly developed and strengthened, in consequence of the formally-repeated assurances of the Emperor's Government to the effect that no special form of Government would be imposed upon them by force. The Sardinian Cabinet will transmit the proposals of France to Central Italy, the Government of which country will probably consult the nation by means of universal and secret suffrage, the result of which could not be contested. The proposal of a vicariate which is contained in the message of M. Thouvenel involves the direct interference of the Papal Government in the interior Administration, and would meet with absolute resistance on the part of the inhabitants of the Romagna. The Pope also, on his part, would probably give this proposal a less favourable reception than were the question to treat of the absolute separation of the provinces from his dominions. In order to obtain a more sincere manifestation of the wishes of the inhabitants, Count Cavour believes that the Government of the Romagna ought not to make express mention of the Vicariate in the propositions submitted to universal suffrage. The proposition relative to Tuscany cannot be equivocal in the form in which it will be presented to the popular vote. If the people of Tuscany pronounce for the preservation of their political autonomy, Sardinia would freely assist them to surmount the obstacles which might offer themselves to such a solution. The Government would act in a similar manner in regard to Parma, Modena, and the Romagna; if, on the contrary, the provinces manifest once more in a decided manner a determined will to be united to Piedmont the Sardinians would not know how to oppose it any longer. Even if it should wish to do so, it could not. Accepting beforehand the eventuality of the annexation, the Government of the King takes upon itself the immense responsibility of it. He is convinced that, if he rejects the demand of Tuscany for annexation, the Cabinet of the King would lose all moral authority in Italy, and would find itself reduced to govern by force. Rather than compromise the great work of regeneration for which France makes such sacrifices, the honour and interests of the country compel the King and his Government to expose themselves to the most perilous risks. Count Cavour reserves for another despatch the consideration of the arguments which do not relate to Central Italy, and concludes by stating that the reasons set forth will prove to M. Thouvenel that the Sardinian Government cannot accept the solution which he proposes.

CENTRAL ITALY.

A decree has been published convoking the Tuscan people for the 11th and 12th of March, in order to vote by universal suffrage and ballot on the two following proposals—annexation to Sardinia, or separate kingdom. All Tuscans, being twenty-one years of age and enjoying political rights, are entitled to vote. The inhabitants of the Emilia provinces are to vote in like manner. Meanwhile, every preparation is being made for war.

A Government ordinance has been issued at Florence suppressing all former decrees which might tend to modify or restrain the liberty of the press in political matters.

THE ANNEXATION OF SAVOY.

The anxiously-expected papers touching the annexation of Savoy and Nice to the empire of France were laid before Parliament on Friday week, and have now become the property of the public. We give a digest of them.

The policy of the French Government is clearly explained. It is stated distinctly on behalf, not only of France, but of Sardinia also, that no definite or formal engagement for the transfer of Savoy subsisted between the two Courts; but it is admitted by M. Thouvenel that among the "possible arrangements" discussed between France and Sardinia, even before the commencement of the Italian war, the cession of Savoy and Nice, under certain contingencies, was undoubtedly included. The contingencies in question referred to the possible aggrandisement of Sardinia to such an extent as might affect the proportion existing between her military strength and that of France, or, in other words, to the addition of all Northern Italy between the Alps and the Adriatic to the territories of Piedmont. If this result had been accomplished, Savoy and Nice, according to the contemplated adjustments, would have gone to France, but, as events fell short of this mark, the scheme was dropped, and Count Walewski was enabled to assure Lord Cowley, and Lord John Russell to inform the House of Commons, that Napoleon III. entertained no idea of annexing Savoy to the Imperial dominions. But at the commencement of the present year we find the question once more the subject of uneasy discussion, and once more, therefore, the French Government explains its views. Since the Treaty of Villafranca the affairs of Italy had undergone a change, and it appeared as if the Sardinian kingdom, though not augmented by Venetia, would receive an equivalent accession from the States of Central Italy. This accession, accordingly, threw back the French Government on its original designs, and induced it to revive the idea of the annexation. The principle, in short, maintained by France was exactly that just expressed in the speech from the Imperial throne. The question has been made to turn throughout on the relative magnitude of the Sardinian monarchy. When that monarchy was likely to be extended to the Adriatic the transfer of Savoy was contemplated as a necessary condition; when this extension was no longer probable the topic was dropped; but when the aggrandisement which failed in one quarter bade fair to occur in another the condition came into force again likewise. So rigorously were M. Thouvenel's views confined to this single point, that he expressed the readiness of the Emperor to forego the scheme in any event whatever except that of the aggrandisement of Sardinia in the manner described. If, for instance, the States of Central Italy should form themselves into a kingdom independent of Sardinia, then the idea of the transfer would be abandoned. It was only against the formation of a State of some ten millions of souls upon its frontier that France thought it indispensable thus to provide. Touching a reference to European deliberation, M. Thouvenel expressed his opinion that the case of Savoy was exactly analogous to that of Central Italy,

and that, if the annexation of the latter territory to Piedmont could take place without the consent of the great Powers, the annexation of the former to France would be practicable on the same terms. Five days later, however, Lord Cowley transmits to Lord John Russell a more satisfactory announcement from the Emperor himself. "His Majesty (February 9) disclaimed all intention of annexing Savoy against the will of the Savoyards themselves, and without having consulted the great Powers."

No Government expressed more lively or more natural solicitude in this affair than that of Switzerland, but we are informed by Sir James Hudson that Switzerland has been anxious for annexation, like France herself. The object, in fact, of the Federal Council was a better military frontier. The circumstances of the Republic, as defined in elaborate memoirs on the subject, have been materially affected by recent changes. The transfer of Neuchâtel naturally diminished the interest felt by Prussia in Swiss affairs; the Italian war crippled the resources of Austria and increased the power of France, while the internal revolutions of the Republic since 1847 had considerably modified its position. Switzerland therefore was anxious not so much about the transfer of Savoy to France as about the conditions on which it was to be effected. Give the Republic a satisfactory frontier, and its views would so far be satisfied. The Swiss Government has been indefatigable in its representations in this matter. Not only our own Embassy at Berne, but our Ministers at Turin and Paris, were repeatedly set in motion by the urgency of its remonstrances. It is observable that M. Thouvenel, in his critical conference (February 5) with Lord Cowley, remarked that "the annexation of Savoy to France would not break the engagements entered into for the neutrality of the districts of Chablais and Faucigny; indeed, in the opinion of the French Government, it would be well that those districts should be united permanently to Switzerland."

With respect to the position of Sardinia and the feelings of Savoy our information is less complete. We learn from Sir James Hudson's despatches that as long as eight years ago the Savoyards were generally "Separatists," though one party desired union with France and another with Switzerland, according to the views suggested by contiguity of frontier. These ideas, however, seemed to have subsided, and the subsidence rather perplexed Count Cavour, who told Sir James on one occasion that he could not account for the opinions of many Savoyards, who were all for annexation before the war and all against it now. Sir James himself, too, is fain to conclude that the Savoyards "do not know their own minds;" but he states with some confidence that they will be left to form their conclusions without any pressure on the part of Sardinia, though he is not so sure that Sardinia will be exempted from pressure on the part of France. With regard to the understanding subsisting between the French and Sardinian Governments, there is nothing reported to qualify the conclusion which we have already drawn from the language of M. Thouvenel. Count Cavour disclaimed any "engagement," as also any "disposition," to part with Savoy; but his expressions are incompatible with the fact of the "arrangements" described above.

We come at length to the point most interesting to the British people—viz., the conduct of the British Government, which, as far as protests and arguments could go, appears to have been both decided and consistent. No communication ever reached our Ministers with respect to the annexation project which did not produce a prompt expostulation. All the Governments in turn were moved to the same effect. Lord John Russell concurred with the Swiss authorities respecting the importance of the neutralised districts; he communicated the views of the Cabinet to the Court of Turin, and, though his tone was always amicable, he certainly left the French Government under no illusion as to the opinions prevailing in this country. Count Cavour is not only told that the cession of Savoy would be "a blot on the escutcheon" of the reigning house, but is reminded that the weakness of Sardinia on the frontier of Venetia would not be cured by placing a Power like France in a position of strength on another frontier, while the case advanced by the French Government is encountered by arguments which M. Thouvenel himself is compelled to describe as "powerful," though he will not admit them to be unanswerable. As it happens, this correspondence closes with this expression of his opinion; so that we have not the opportunity of weighing his reply, but we do not see how Lord John Russell's reasoning could be overcome. He remarks that the motives on which the designs of the French Government are avowedly based cannot sustain the professed conclusion. France, possessing 36,000,000 population, exclusive of colonies, could not possibly "be endangered by the existence on the other side of the Alps of a State of 11,000,000 people lately joined by a cement not yet dry; threatened on the side of Lombardy by Austria, and not very certain of its own independence." Again, if the danger to France is anticipated from the possible alliance of Sardinia with other Powers, that danger is evidently the same whether Sardinia acquires Central Italy or not. The peril, in fact, would accrue, not from Sardinia itself, but from the Powers in alliance with it, so that whether Sardinia had 5,000,000 or 10,000,000 of souls signified nothing, and yet the Emperor had himself admitted that in the former case he would put in no claim to Savoy. But a still stronger argument was drawn from the complexion which the whole policy of France would inevitably assume in the eyes of Europe if this project of annexation should be carried out. The Emperor had loudly proclaimed the disinterested character of his views in undertaking the war, and by this avowal the misgivings of Europe had been, though not without difficulty, appeased. If Savoy were annexed—petty as the acquisition might be—the jealousies and alarms of nations would once more be roused, and other and more serious objects would be attributed to the Emperor, who, Lord John writes on the 5th of July, "would thus become an object of suspicion to Europe, and kindle the hostility of which his uncle was the victim."

IN OUR LAST IMPRESSION we unintentionally attributed the Engraving of "Mr. Whitworth's Lecture on the Sands at Southport" to a sketch from our artist. It was merely copied by that gentleman from a clever photograph taken by Mr. A. Brothers, of Manchester.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MEDALS to the performers at the Handel Festival took place at Exeter Hall on Wednesday evening.

THE PAPER DUTY.—A report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue confirms the statement made by Mr. Gladstone that the paper duty is rapidly becoming untenable, and the Commissioners urge reasons for its repeal. They particularly dwell upon the grievances of the pasteboard-makers; and they say, "We cannot conceive a more untenable position for the heads of a revenue department than that in which we are placed when, in answer to complaints from persons whose trade is annihilated by our exaction of a duty from which their competitors are exempt, we can only say that such is the necessary consequence of the existence of the tax. It is this unfortunate effect of the paper duty which so distinguishes it for evil."

SERIOUS COLLISION IN THE MERSEY.—A very serious collision, resulting in the loss of a large steam-tug and of a fine schooner, occurred on Tuesday. It appears that about ten o'clock the steam-tug *Independence* was off West Hoyle, about twelve miles off the port, with the barque *J. K. L.*, of Bristol, in tow. A large iron three-masted schooner, the *Arthur Gordon*, was beating down channel, and by some unfortunate accident the tug came in collision with her. The shock was very severe, and it became at once apparent that the tug was in a sinking condition. The crew took to their boat, and got on board the barque *J. K. L.*; in ten minutes afterwards the tug sank. The collision stove in the side of the schooner, and she sank in fifteen minutes, the crew being saved. Both vessels were lost in eighteen fathoms water, and there is not much probability of their being recovered. The *Arthur Gordon* was laden with 400 tons of iron ore.

THREE CHILDREN MURDERED.—On Saturday afternoon an inquest was held on the body of a male infant found in the passage of a house in Featherstone-street, with a pitch-plaster over the mouth and severe marks of violence on the body. Evidence was offered proving that the deceased had been born alive. A second inquiry was gone into respecting the death of a female child, newly born, which was discovered tied up in a piece of dirty rag on the pavement in Hatchiff-highway. Evidence was given that the child had died from violence. A third inquest was held on the body of a newly-born female child which had been found in a small box lying in the churchyard of St. John's, Hackney. There was an injury on the side of the deceased's head. The deceased, in the opinion of the medical gentleman, had died from neglect and violence. The jury in each case returned a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."

THE PROVINCES.

TRADES UNIONS AND MURDER.—In August last a non-unionist saw-grinder at Sheffield, named Linley, was shot in the head while drinking in a public-house. The bullet lodged behind the eye, and could not be extracted. The man, however, was able to resume work, but never regained his wonted health, and expired somewhat suddenly on Wednesday week, death being attributed to the injuries received in August. The assassin is unknown. Linley's life had been attempted on three previous occasions, and these attempts were all attributed to trade disputes.

THE REVEREND MR. RIBBANS.—The Leek case, in which the Rev. Mr. Ribbans and Mr. Siever were accused of conspiring to leave an illegitimate child chargeable to the Leek union, was reheard on Saturday. No new evidence was elicited. Who was the father of the child, and how the infant was disposed of, were pretty clearly made out; but the magistrates thought there was no evidence of conspiracy. It was a disgraceful case, they said, but there was no evidence sufficient to establish a criminal intent. The offenders must be left to the punishment of their own consciences, for the law could not take hold of the offence.

DROWNING OF A THIEF.—A custom-house officer was patrolling the margin of the Waterloo Dock, Liverpool, on Saturday, when his attention was attracted by a man running away from a ship. Observing that the person of the runaway was suspiciously bulky, he made chase, came up with the man, and was about to search him, when he wrenched himself from the hands of the officer and jumped into the dock. He did not rise; and when the body was afterwards discovered it was found to be enveloped by thirteen sheets of copper, which he had stolen from the ship.

THE ART GALLERY FOR MANCHESTER.—The proposed Free Art Gallery for Manchester was the subject of a meeting on Monday. The meeting was a very influential one, the Mayor occupying the chair, and the first resolution being moved by Mr. Thomas Fairbairn, the founder of the project. The first resolution merely pledged the meeting to the desirability of founding a free art gallery for this city; the second one—moved by the Mayor—recommended that £100,000 be raised to found this gallery; the third resolution urged an immediate appeal to all classes in Manchester and the towns and villages in its neighbourhood. It should be stated that promises of subscription will not be binding until £80,000 has been raised.—*Manchester Examiner*.

MURDER OF THE CAPTAIN AND CHIEF OFFICER OF A LIVERPOOL SHIP.—At the Southampton Townhall, on Wednesday, Frederick Casman was charged with the wilful murder of the captain and chief officer of the ship *Accrington*, of Liverpool, on the high seas. The prisoner was sent to Southampton by Mr. H. Augustus Cowper, her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Pernambuco. The official document received from the Consul with the prisoner states that a Naval Court had been held at that place to inquire into the cause of the deaths of the captain and chief officer of the British passenger-ship *Accrington*, and it was decided to send Frederick Casman home as the murderer. With the prisoner there have also arrived several witnesses. The *Accrington* was on her voyage from Liverpool to Calcutta with soldiers and soldiers' wives and children. The conduct of the captain appears to have rendered him unpopular, and the evidence is understood to be to the effect that one morning Casman, who was the steward, put a quantity of tartaric emetic into some coffee, of which the captain and the principal officers of the ship partook. The result was, that Captain Homer and Mr. Cooper, the chief mate, died from the effects of the poison, and Mr. Carroll, the surgeon, narrowly escaped with his life. The Southampton magistrates remanded the prisoner.

DESPERATE CONFLICT WITH BURGLARS.—Mr. Benjamin Guy, residing at Portobello, Wolverhampton, was awakened on Tuesday morning by a man entering his room, bearing a light and carrying in his other hand a small crowbar. Mr. Guy sprang out of bed and collared the intruder. A struggle ensued in the dark, the light having been extinguished, Mr. Guy defending himself with his fists against the thief, who, on his part, wielded his crowbar unmercifully. Presently a second man came to his assistance; but by this time the noise of the struggle and the cries of Mr. Guy's wife and son attracted the attention of a police-constable, who came up in time to turn the scale in favour of Mr. Guy, who was rapidly becoming exhausted. The first burglar was secured. On being searched at the station he was found to have in his possession a large assortment of skeleton keys and other house-breaking instruments, as also a quantity of gunpowder and percussion-caps. His accomplice escaped. Mr. Guy sustained very severe injuries about the head and face, and a deep wound in the arm, which has deprived him of its use.

REVIVALISM.—A few days ago Sarah Alderson, a servant girl, was taken to the York Lunatic Asylum. It appears that the girl had gone pretty regularly to church with her mistress, but was persuaded by two of her companions to go with them on Sunday night week to the Primitive Methodist Chapel at Middlesbrough. A revival service was held that night, and the girl came home from the meeting in a fearful state of mind. Her very features were affected. She said she had been converted. The preacher had said something about the girl taking care of herself or the devil would get her. The whole thing had so affected her that she became delirious and was sent home. Her friends had no control over her. She escaped from them during the night, and was found next morning in the cow-byre, holding two cows by the tail, singing hymns and songs, and shouting and praying. They tried all means to restore her rationality, but failed. She was in a most desperate condition, and was accordingly sent to York raving mad.

ELECTION NEWS.—The Attorney-General has been re-elected for Cork county. Mr. George Cubitt (son of the late Mr. Thomas Cubitt, the builder) succeeds Mr. Henry Drummond in the representation of West Surrey. The member for Ennis, in place of the Right Hon. J. D. Fitzgerald, is Captain William Stackpole.

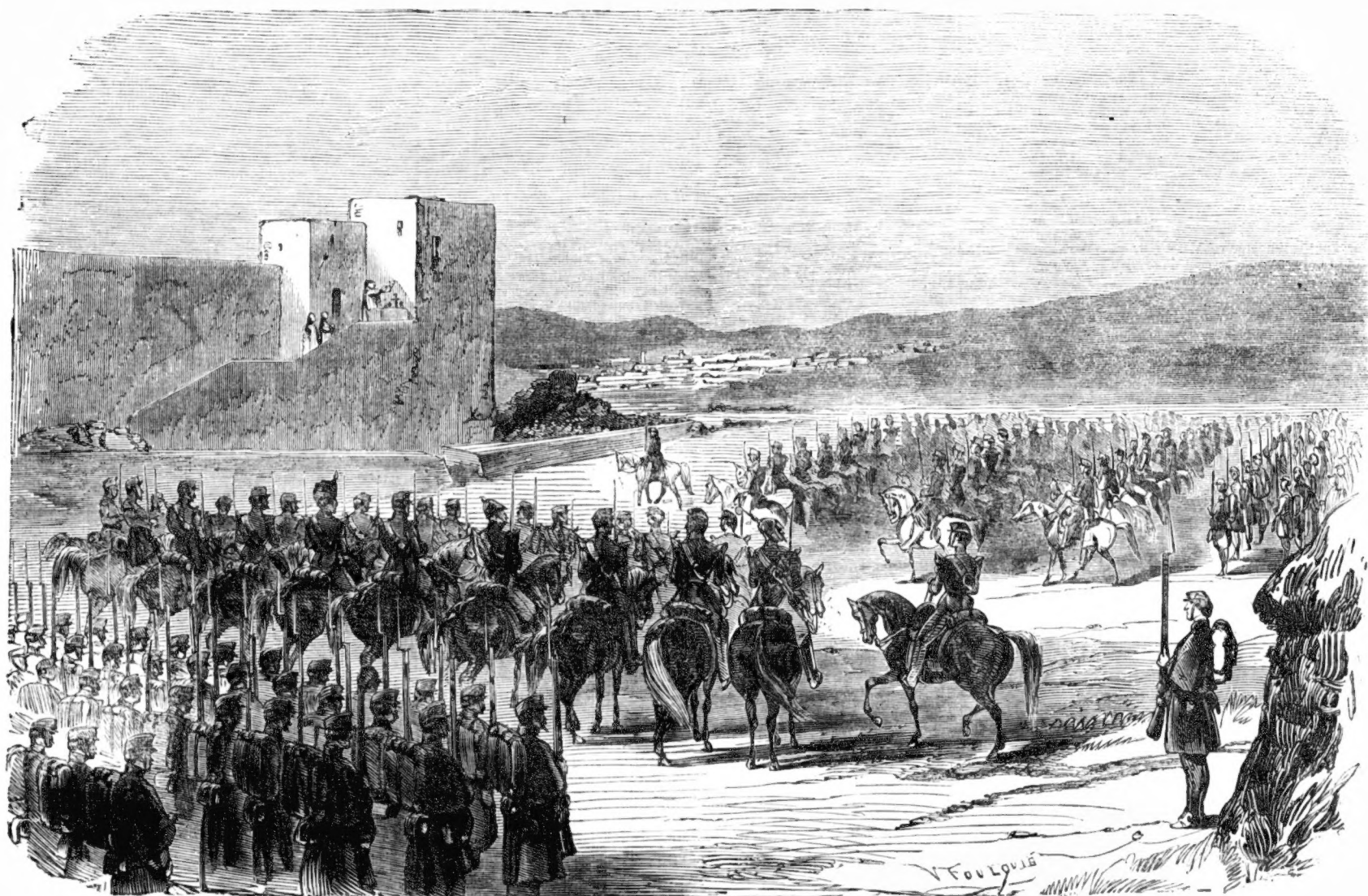
DEATH IN A ST. GILES'S CELLAR.—A boy accidentally dropped his peg-top down a cellar in Nottingham-court, St. Giles's, the whole of which premises, except the basement floor, was occupied as a lodging-house. In passing through a kitchen, used as a dustbin, to regain his top, the boy stumbled over the body of a woman, lying with her head in a corner and her body coiled up, partly buried in the dust. It proved to be the remains of the wife of a clock-case maker, of Hatton-garden. No signs of violence were found upon her person, but she was in a fearfully emaciated state, and her body must have been lying in the cellar for five or six weeks. Death appeared to have been occasioned by the combined causes of intemperance, want of food, and exposure. The husband of the deceased, a respectable-looking tradesman, was present at the inquest, and deposed that the deceased had been a very dissipated woman, and on the 13th of last May she left him, and neither he nor any of their friends or relations ever heard of her afterwards.

DEPUTATION OF MOORS TO MARSHAL O'DONNELL.

It will be recollected by our readers that, after the last discomfiture of the Moors before Tetuan, proposals were made to O'Donnell for the peaceable occupation of the city. Some of the citizens waited on the Spanish Commander-in-Chief especially to treat for this. The deputation consisted of a Jew, Consul for several foreign nations, who spoke Spanish well, and of four of the principal inhabitants of the town. A sixth personage carried a table-cloth tied to a stick, which did duty as a flag of truce. The Consul was attired in a blue cloak and red fez, and was mounted on a fine mule, with a handsome carpet over his saddle; the Moors wore haicks and turbans, were clean-looking, and came on foot. The purport of what they said seems to have been that, Muley Abbas having abandoned their defence (in consequence of the very strong reasons the Spanish gave him on the previous day for so doing), they were desirous of coming to terms.

The deputation was conducted back towards Tetuan by a company of riflemen and some Staff officers. They had arrived escorted by a party of Moorish soldiers, but these got surrounded in head-quarters camp by officers and idlers, and by some accident those they came to guard departed without them. At a certain distance from the city the envoys expressed a wish to be allowed to proceed alone, but as there were Spanish soldiers straggling to the front, on various pretexts, but probably with an eye to marauding, some of whom might not have recognised or respected the sacred character of a flag of truce, it was thought prudent that an officer and two men should go with them a little further. The Moorish escort remained some time longer in the camp. Possibly they were picked men, but certainly they were all fine-looking fellows, of various ages, from an elderly man with grey moustaches, but still active and athletic, down to lads as yet beardless. Some of their countenances were remarkably pleasing and of a very good expression. They evidently did not belong to the wild tribes which the Spaniards have as yet had chiefly opposed to them, and were probably natives of Tetuan. Their guns were clean and in good order, and some of them were excellent weapons. Before they left they had got on extremely friendly terms with the Spaniards.

Our second illustration shows the grand military mass performed to celebrate the capture of the city in the camp at Tetuan. The priest occupies a position on a ruined tower, and is holding aloft the Host, while the troops in front present arms.



MILITARY MASS IN THE SPANISH CAMP AT TETUAN.

NICE.

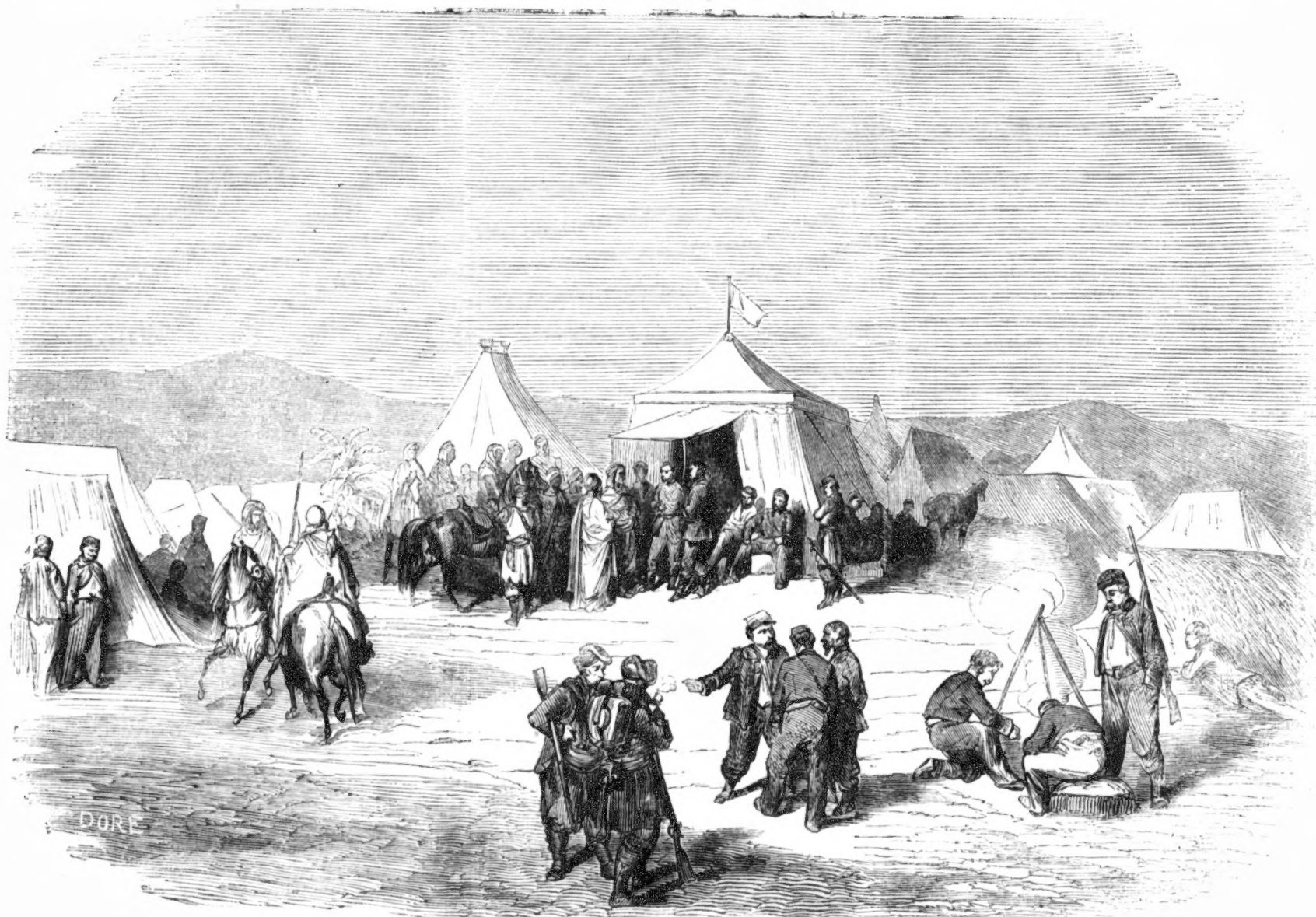
THE speech of the Emperor of the French has made us fully acquainted with his intention to annex Savoy and Nice to France as a counterbalance of power to the increased dimensions of Sardinia.

Nice, which is a province of Sardinia, is situated between the maritime Alps and the sea at the western extremity of the Riviera of Genoa. It is separated on the west from France by the River Var, and on the north from the plains of Piedmont by the Col de Tende, 5887 feet

above the sea, over which passes the carriage road from Nice to Turin. The River Roia, a rapid stream coming from the Col de Tende, crosses the eastern part of the county of Nice, near the borders of the former Republic and now Duchy of Genoa, and, after a course of about thirty miles, enters the sea near Ventimiglia. The greatest length of the county of Nice, from the sources of the Tinea—an affluent of the Var, in the lofty recesses of the Alps—to the seacoast is nearly fifty miles, and its breadth varies from thirty to forty miles. The country appears

like a section of a vast amphitheatre, the lower part of which consists of gentle hills and small valleys and plains, with a southern aspect. Being sheltered from the northern winds by the Alps it enjoys a very genial climate, and is made productive by the cultivation, especially, of olives, figs, grapes, oranges, lemons, and other fruit.

The principal town of this province is Nice or Nizza, of which we give an Illustration. Nice was founded by the Greeks of Massilia, and was fortified by them to repress the neighbouring tribes, and secure the



INHABITANT OF TETUAN REQUESTING MARSHAL O'DONNELL TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THEIR CITY.



VIEW OF NICE.

navigation of the adjacent sea. It continued subject to the Massilians after the establishment of the Var as the boundary of Gaul and Italy, though it was within the boundary of Italy. In the middle ages it was a strong fortress. It was besieged A.D. 1543 by the French under Francis I. on the land side, and by the Turkish fleet under Barbarossa on the sea side. It was taken and plundered, except the citadel, which held out. The town was again taken by the French in 1691, 1706, and 1744. It was seized by the French without resistance in 1791, and annexed to the Republic, being made the department of the Alpes Maritimes. By a new arrangement of territory it reverted to Sardinia in 1815.

Nice is pleasantly situated, and its climate is much celebrated for its mildness, but it probably is over-praised. The neighbourhood of the Alps, and the prevalence of the *Vent de Bise*, a keen, searching wind, renders the air frequently very cold and even frosty in winter and spring, and the heat in summer is excessive. It is, however, much resorted to by invalids, especially English, who have a quarter of their own, known as the "Croix de Marbre." In this suburb the houses are painted externally in fresco, and surrounded with gardens containing standard orange and lemon trees. The town itself is divided into two parts, distinguished respectively as the old and new towns. The streets of the former are narrow; the latter is better laid out. There are two squares—one of them surrounded with porticoes and very handsome. Adjacent to the other is a raised terrace, which serves for a defence of the town against the sea and for a public walk. On this terrace is a poorly-executed statue of Catherine Seguiran, a heroine who assisted in the defence of Nice against the Turks. The ramparts of the town, on the land side, form another promenade.

There are many pleasant country houses on the slope of the adjacent hills; and near the town are the ruins of the ancient Comenium, now the chief public building. There are a theatre, baths, good inns, cafés, a public library, and agreeable society. Provisions—except game—are good and plentiful; the wine and oil are excellent. The fort, which is protected by a mole, is spacious and secure; vessels of 300 tons can enter it. The roadstead would afford anchorage to a hundred vessels of the line.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 120.

THE SAVOY DEBATE.—EÖTHEN KINGLAKE.

LAST week we had a short debate on the question of the annexation of Savoy, which we feel bound to notice; first to introduce to our readers Mr. Kinglake, the celebrated author of "Eöthen;" and secondly to call attention to the remarkable change which has lately come over Sir Robert Peel. Of Mr. Kinglake we have to report that he never can achieve a Parliamentary success. His fame as an author he has established, and with that he must be contented, for as a speaker in the House he never can be remarkable. The honourable gentleman has fine talents and great genius, but he lacks physical power ever to address the House with effect. His speech on this occasion may be aptly described as forcibly-feeble, but not in the sense in which this phrase is commonly used, for it is generally applied to men whose language and manners are forcible, whilst their matter is feeble. It is the loud-tongued, dramatic utterers of empty nothings that this epithet usually describes; but Mr. Kinglake is not one of this class. On the contrary, his matter is good and forcible; it is his manner that is feeble; and it ever must be so, for, as we have said, Mr. Kinglake has not, and never can have, the physical qualifications necessary to make a speaker. He is short in stature, very near-sighted, feeble in voice, and apparently generally weak in constitution. Mr. Kinglake's want of success as a speaker is to be regretted for his own sake, and for the sake of the country; for the honourable gentleman, no doubt, feels that he has something to say, and is moved by a laudable ambition to express his thoughts. And we, too, who have read his book, know that whatever the honourable gentleman thinks is worthy of being expressed, and must ever regret that he cannot speak his thoughts as well as he can write them.

SIR ROBERT PEEL.

A fortnight ago we noticed in terms of censure the oratorical escapades of Sir Robert Peel: we feel, therefore, bound in justice to the honourable Baronet to call special attention to the remarkable speech which he delivered in this occasion. Since we last wrote a great change has come over Sir Robert, so great that it may be called in puritan phrase "a conversion," "a newness of life." When the affluents descended upon the honourable Baronet we have not learned, nor do we know whether it was the result of reflection or was a sudden inspiration; but that he has been the subject of something analogous to "a new birth" is patent. Sir Robert Peel has been in the House of Commons nearly ten years, for he was first returned on the death of his father in July, 1850; but during the whole of this period Sir Robert never did anything worthy of his name until last week. Men, indeed, had generally come to the conclusion that, though he was known to possess talent of no mean order, he would never rise to a higher position than that of a rollicking, witty, amusing speaker. But on this occasion the honourable Baronet disappointed all these prophecies, and delivered a speech which, whether we consider the sentiments uttered, the eloquent language in which they were delivered, or the striking and appropriate manner with which they were enforced, we must decide was one of the most successful efforts of modern days. Sir Robert arose when the House was full, and when he arose the lovers of fun of course expected an exhibition, though it was difficult to see how Sir Robert could excite merriment on so serious a subject; whilst the sober, serious men evidently were in doubt—sat, as we may say, upon thorns—lest Sir Robert should mar the discussion of so grave a matter by ill-timed buffoonery and wit. The honourable gentleman, however, soon disappointed the young men, and set at rest all the anxieties of the old. The attention of the House whilst Sir Robert was speaking was just that sort of attention which we love to see in the House. It was serious—devout, we might almost say—and when the House broke out into a cheer it was clearly the expression of the deep feeling of many English hearts. How different was all this from the loud, boisterous "Yah! yahs" of the rollicking fast men who have usually greeted the honourable Baronet; and how much more pleasant a subject for reflection must this effect have been to Sir Robert himself!

THE CHEERING OF THE HOUSE.

Every one who is experienced in the manners of the House knows well the distinctions in the cheering of its members. In addition to the uproarious cheering, mixed with laughter, which Sir Robert used to call forth, there is the defiant cheer (more like a yell than a cheer). This is most commonly heard from the Conservative side of the House. When Lord John Manners was pitching into Bright the other night there was a perfect storm of this sort of cheering. Then there is the cheer derisive, which is very expressive; and, again, the cheer confirmatory. Thus, when an honourable member charges another with having uttered some sentiments which, in the opinion of the speaker, were flagrantly wrong, the friends of the member attacked will break out into a confirmatory cheer, which, being interpreted, means, "Yes, he did say it, and what he said is true." There is also the obstructive cheer, of which we shall have an opportunity of saying something by-and-by; and, lastly, there is the genuine English manly, approving cheer. It was this sort of cheering that Sir Robert Peel evoked on this occasion—a manly, hearty, generous cheer burst forth into what is called overwhelming applause when he sat down. No doubt that this cheering was inspired by the sentiments which he uttered, as we have said; but are we wrong in supposing that it was also coloured with a feeling of delight that it was the man who bears the honoured name of "Sir Robert Peel" that had uttered them? We of course could not cheer, for if we had opened our lips we should have probably caught the attention of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and been compelled to descend from the gallery and do penance at the bar; but we confess that if we had broken loose it would have been quite as much from a feeling of delight that it was Sir Robert Peel who was speaking as from approbation of what he said. Sir Robert Peel, then, has gained a new position in the House, and straight before

him there lies open a noble and honourable career. Will he pursue it? We will not allow ourselves to harbour a doubt that he will. He has felt his power. Up to the other day Sir Robert aspired to no higher position than that of amusing the House, and perhaps did not feel that he was capable of a loftier flight. He has now, however, taken a nobler position. He has arrested the serious attention and stirred the hearts of the English Commons. He has gained the respect and approbation of men whose respect and approval are worth seeking; and, what is even better still, he has doubtless gained his own; and until we have seen to the contrary we will not believe that he will give up the high and honourable position which he has achieved. Sir Robert is endowed with all the qualifications of a good speaker; he has excellent abilities, good voice, commanding appearance, and, when he will, he can use the advantages which he possesses with effect. That he has wit at command we know too well; but he has also humour, which is a much higher quality than mere sparkling wit. There is no reason why he should entirely forego these latter advantages; they, too, were given to be used; but he must make them his servants, and not let them be his masters. Wit and humour are not out of place even in the House of Commons, but they should be used sparingly for the purpose of illustrating and enforcing the matter in hand, and not with the intention of preening the House of Commons' proceedings into farcical exhibitions; in short, in such a place, and in all similar places, kept well in hand, and "within the limits of becoming mirth."

THE "OBSTRUCTIVE CHEER" AND MR. CONINGHAM.

We have alluded in a foregoing paragraph to the "cheer obstructive." Cheers are, everywhere but in the House of Commons, generally expressions of approbation; but here, as we have shown, the cheering often means something very remote from approval. Of the "cheer obstructive" we had a capital example one night last week. The House had been during the whole evening in Committee on customs duties. The great subject of the evening was "corks." The Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to admit them free of duty. On the part of the great cork interest Mr. Thomas Duncombe resisted the proposal, and for long hours a furious battle had raged upon the subject; and to note the passion and energy which were expended in the conflict was very amusing. Tommy Duncombe was so learned upon the matter that you would have thought he had been a bottler some time during his eventful career; while as to Gladstone, so familiar did he seem to be with all the ins and outs of the cork trade, that a stranger, if he had not known the contrary, would have imagined that the right honourable gentleman was a corkcutter. Well, towards the close of this remarkable discussion, when the House was thoroughly tired and exhausted, and impatient for a division, Mr. Coningham, of Brighton, rushed into the affray in his usual impulsive manner, and wanted to arrest the division by the interposition of another speech. The House, however, was tired of the subject, and would have no more speeches; and, as the honourable member would not take the hint conveyed by a storm of "Divide! divide!" when he arose it adopted the humorous method of stopping Mr. Coningham's mouth by an obstructive cheer. "We have," said the honourable member, after the cries of "Divide!" had somewhat subsided, "we have—" but he could get no further; for no sooner had he uttered these words than there came a volley of those sharp cheers. At first the speaker seemed to think that these were encouraging cheers, but he soon discovered his mistake; for on trying back and uttering the words again he was again met with a similar discharge. And so the contest raged for a minute or two. "We have—" (Cheers). "We have—" (Cheers). At last Mr. C. got impatient, and determined to force his way through all impediments; but it was no use. In vain he stormed and gesticulated. He was soon borne down by numbers and compelled to take his seat. This is an example of the "cheer obstructive."

RADICAL PROTECTIONISTS.—DUNCOMBE AND AYRTON.

When a certain Minister of the Crown said that "an independent member was a man that no one could depend upon," he meant one whom no Minister could depend upon; but the saying has a newer significance now, for your independent member is now a member whom literally no one can depend upon. He is an anomaly, a solecism, a man of strange flights and vagaries—one whose thoughts and actions appear to be guided by no principles, and are referable to no known laws. For example, who would have thought, who could have imagined, that Mr. Duncombe and Mr. Ayrton would have come out as staunch Protectionists? Both these gentlemen are professed Radicals, Liberals of the broadest school—believe in universal suffrage, vote by ballot, and, indeed, profess to hold by the broadest formula of the Radical school. As a Radical Finsbury sends Mr. Duncombe, as a Radical "the Hamlets" sends Mr. Ayrton, to Parliament; how, then, is it that in commercial and fiscal matters these men are not Radicals, but Tories, and advocate, not the policy of free trade, which one would have thought was one of the prominent doctrines of the Radical creed, but the stiffest Protection—not the policy of Adam Smith, Mill, Bright, Cobden, &c., but the narrow dogmas of such small politicians as Newdegate, Bentinck, Ball, and Lord John Manners; and when they address the House unconsciously—or perhaps we ought to say consciously—turn their faces away from their own side and look to the opposite benches for cheers of approval? This is surely a singular phenomenon of these latter days, and one which it will be difficult for philosophers to account for. But so it is. On "corks" Mr. Duncombe quite delighted the old Protectionists of the House, who cheered the enunciation of their own views to the echo; whilst, when Ayrton was advocating a Protectionist duty on silk, Newdegate was in ecstasies, and Bentinck's broad, stolid face was radiant with joy. And that Ayrton was in earnest there can be no doubt; for he was, for the first time in his life—his Parliamentary life, we mean—impassioned. Generally, the member for the Tower Hamlets is as cold and dry as an anatomist over a subject. Indeed, Mr. Ayrton usually very much resembles a dissector. It is his forte to anatomise, and analyse, and pull to pieces. Give him a questionable bill to examine, and there is no man can do it better; and we are bound to say that in this department Mr. Ayrton is a useful man, has exposed many a foolish clause, and has stopped the progress of not a few questionable bills; but commonly the honourable member is awfully cold. He looks so, and he is so—cold, severely critical, and utterly passionless—cold as an iceberg, critical as a dissector, passionless as a statue. But on this occasion he lashed himself into something like eloquence, and was moved to something like indignation at the wrongs which the "heartless" Free-traders were about to inflict upon his clients.

GLADSTONE IS DOWN UPON THEM.

But Gladstone was down upon him, and gave him such a pounding as the Radical member for the Hamlets will not soon forget. It was easy to see, from Gladstone's fidgetiness, that he longed to be at him; and when the Chancellor jumped up, at the close of Mr. Ayrton's speech, we all knew that the honourable gentleman would get it, and waited impatiently for the whizzing of the descending lash. At last it came; and such a flogging we never before saw. It was severe beyond all precedent—merciless—and must have made Mr. Ayrton wince again. How biting must that sarcasm have been when the Chancellor of the Exchequer complimented the honourable member on his Protectionist opinions, and assured him that, though the member for North Warwickshire (Mr. Newdegate) went tolerably far, he (the member for the Tower Hamlets) had beaten the old Protectionist all to pieces!

The honourable gentleman (said Mr. Gladstone) has adopted all the exploded vocabulary—not to say "slang"—of the old Protectionists; and has revived the old tone of the original debates on free trade. The honourable gentleman talks of the heartlessness of Free-traders. The "heartlessness" of Free-traders! Why, that is the very word that was applied to Mr. Huskisson in 1825. Mr. Huskisson was accused of being a heartless metaphysician, and of having the sentiments of the devil in his breast; and, with the exception of the reference to that particular personage, the speech of the member for the Tower Hamlets came up to anything which had been said at that period.

The word "heartlessness" had effectually roused the wrath of the Chancellor; and as he proceeded, in his Royal progress, to pound Mr.

Ayrton's arguments into dust, and to show how free trade had benefited the silk-manufacturers and produced the most satisfactory results to the very Spitalfields weavers whose cause Mr. Ayrton had taken up, he over and over again hurled the word "heartlessness" back again at the head of his opponent. It was truly an awful castigation; but was it undeserved? Is it not an annoying thing, when a magnificent fiscal scheme like this is propounded by the Government, to have a professed tribune of the people pelting you on the flank with the thrice-thrashed straw of the old, exploded dogmas, and fallacies, and falsities, and platitudes of an obsolete school?

IN THE NAME OF THE PROPHET—RAGS!

If the Emperor of the French had not consented to allow rags to be imported into this country we should have had a fierce battle in the House upon rags; and members would have been eloquent, and impassioned, and declamatory upon ragged shirts, torn linen, and rotten garments. And it is confidently asserted that the Government would have met with a defeat. But now the cloud has dissolved and passed away; for on Friday night her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs solemnly announced that the French Council of Ministers had determined to recommend the free exportation of rags. This announcement was received with great cheering, in the midst of which an odd question came across our minds—viz., whether that great functionary of the State, Lord John Russell, ever uttered that vulgar word "rags" before? We doubt it; for what can the son of a Duke of Bedford know about rags?

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE YEOMANRY.

Lord DE GRAY and RIFON, in reply to Lord Powis, said it was not the intention of her Majesty's Government to assemble the yeomanry either for permanent duty or for training and exercise during the present year.

Lord MALMESBURY said, if the reason for that decision was one of finance, he thought it would have been much better that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should have retained certain duties which he had given up than that the yeomanry should forego their requisite training and exercise.

Lord DARNLEY, advising to the want of an adequate standard by which to judge of their efficiency, suggested the appointment of an Inspector-General of Yeomanry.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH deprecated the repudiation of the services of the yeomanry on the ground of expense. Among the numerous items of the Civil Estimates expended in "crotchets, jobs, and shams," there were many which might have been struck out in preference to saving the comparatively small sum for the training and exercise of the yeomanry.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE said there was no disposition on the part of the Government to make light of the services of the yeomanry. In reply to Lord Derby, he said that he had no doubt that if application were made to the Treasury by the War Department the same exemption would be allowed the yeomanry in regard to horse duty as before.

Their Lordships adjourned at an early hour.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ANNEXATION OF SAVOY.

Lord J. RUSSELL, in reply to inquiries by Sir H. Verney, Mr. Cochrane, and Sir J. Walsh, stated that her Majesty's Government had no knowledge of any treaty between France and Sardinia on the subject of the annexation of Savoy to the former State, and did not believe that any such treaty existed. From a passage in the Emperor's late speech, and from the correspondence, he understood that, looking at the aggrandisement of Sardinia and at the position of France, the Emperor was of opinion that it was but fair and equitable that France should have a more secure frontier on the Italian side; but the Emperor had declared that he would not proceed to any such annexation without consulting the great Powers of Europe. With regard to the views of her Majesty's Government, they were contained in certain papers he had just laid upon the table.

M'CLINTOCK'S DISCOVERIES.

Sir F. BARING asked the intentions of the Government with respect to any reward to Captain M'Clintock and the crew of the discovery ship *Fort*.

Lord PALMERSTON said it was impossible to speak too highly of the courage, perseverance, and devotion of Sir L. M'Clintock and his brave companions. At the same time, others had displayed the same high qualities, whose services, though they had not been so successful, ought not to be forgotten. A reward of £10,000 had been offered for the discovery of the remains of Sir J. Franklin's expedition, and the whole of that sum had been awarded to Dr. Rae. At the same time, if it was the opinion of Parliament that it was a fit occasion for a special grant, her Majesty's Government would not refuse to carry into effect a vote of the House of Commons in favour of Sir L. M'Clintock. He concurred in the suggestion that there should be some monument to commemorate the services of Sir J. Franklin.

SAVOY AGAIN.

Sir R. PEEL, reverting to the subject of Savoy, called the attention of the Government to a variation, which he deemed of much importance, in the original text of the French Emperor's speech, as published in different English journals, and, after a strong denunciation of the project, asked for more explicit information upon the subject of the annexation.

Mr. BRIGHT said these repetitions of inquiries tended to create greater complications in a matter of this nature. The language of Sir R. Peel was as extravagant as if Europe and England itself were on fire, and he strove not to suppress it, but to make it hotter. We could not prevent the annexation of Savoy to France, which he was informed the people of the province desired, but we might embroil ourselves with France. Moreover, the Savoyards, he believed, desired the annexation, because their land would rise in value; and where that was the case he would not give much for the loyalty of any people. He would never have recommended or promoted the annexation; but "Perish Savoy!" he would say, rather than that House should involve the Government in a war with France in a matter in which he had no interest whatever.

Lord J. MANNERS repudiated the opinions expressed by Mr. Bright, which did not, he said, represent the sentiments of the people of England; and he inquired whether the Emperor of the French still intended to consult the great Powers, prior to annexing Savoy?

Lord J. RUSSELL reiterated the reply he had already given—that, reading the speech of the Emperor in conjunction with the assurances given by the Ambassador, he did not doubt that the intention of the Emperor was to consult the great Powers. He differed from the Government of France in this matter; he conceived that the annexation of Savoy and the occupation of the passes of the Alps by France would be more threatening to Italy than Sardinia could ever be to France. This was a question which should be fairly considered; and he had heard with concern, he said, the speeches of both Sir Peel and Mr. Bright. It was the duty of the Government and of the House of Commons to consider, in the present state of affairs, in what way the peace of Europe could be best maintained and consolidated, and not to give cause for the increase of suspicion and animosity. With respect to the two versions of the Emperor's speech, the Government had only a telegram; the authentic version would appear in the *Moniteur*.

THE CUSTOMS ACTS.

On the bringing up of the report upon the Customs Acts, the discussion relating to the several items in the resolution passed in Committee on Thursday was renewed, in the course of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave some remarkable details on the subject of the cork trade, showing, he said, that freedom of trade was absolutely required for the benefit not only of the public but of the workmen.

In the article of silk manufactures, Mr. NEWDEGATE moved an amendment, the object of which was to retain the present duties until the 1st of October, 1861.

This amendment reopened the whole question of the policy of abandoning the duty upon foreign silks without a corresponding concession in favour of British silks.

In reply to appeals for a stipulation in the future convention to remedy this inequality,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he felt that, when once a country like France took such a step as she had done in the path of free trade, depriving her protected interests of protection, the future steps in the same direction would be comparatively easy.

Upon a division the amendment was negatived by 179 to 51.

The report was agreed to.

The House then went into Committee upon the Customs Acts, and proceeded with the remaining resolutions.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE moved that the duty on foreign spirits be 9s. instead of 8s. 6d. the gallon.

This amendment was resisted by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, and, after a long discussion, it was negatived upon a division by 191 to 48.

The resolutions were then ordered to be reported.

Certain bills were forwarded a stage, and the House adjourned.

MONDAY, MARCH 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

FACTORY LABOUR.

Lord SHAFFESBURY presented a petition from 10,000 persons in Nottingham and its neighbourhood, praying that the lace trade should be brought under the operation of the Factory Act. He pointed out the lamentable consequences which late hours and want of parental control at night had upon the morals of the children, as well as on their physical condition, and concluded by expressing his intention to bring in a bill to extend the Factory Act to the lace trade.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE believed there would be no opposition to the proposed bill if the smaller manufacturers were dealt with carefully, and if the new system were introduced gradually.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE COMMERCIAL TREATY.

On proceeding to the orders of the day, Lord PALMERSTON moved that they be postponed until after the notice of motion given by Mr. Byng for an address to her Majesty on the subject of the commercial treaty with France had been disposed of.

Mr. LINDSAY observed that the terms of that motion were not before the House; and

Mr. KINGLAKE opposed the motion of Lord Palmerston. The House ought not to go further until it had fuller information as to the real state of our relations with France, and an opportunity of considering the papers recently laid upon the table relating to Savoy.

Mr. BYNG said, if it was the opinion of the House that the exact terms of his motion should be previously before it, he would postpone the motion until Thursday.

Lord PALMERSTON thereupon offered to withdraw his motion. Objections were raised to the proposed day, and the discussion of this question gradually drew into its area topics of much larger dimensions, the most prominent being the

ANNEXATION OF SAVOY TO FRANCE.

Mr. S. FITZGERALD urged this subject with great earnestness upon the House, and expressed his hope that Parliament would make a solemn protest against the transfer.

Mr. BRIGHT condemned the terms employed by Mr. Fitzgerald, and implored the House not to show the country that they preferred party embarrassments, and perhaps party victories, to the acceptance of a great treaty, and that they desired to break off friendly relations with France for party objects.

Mr. WHITESIDE insisted that what had fallen from Mr. Fitzgerald had been misunderstood.

Mr. OSBORNE asked the House not to mix up the consideration of the commercial treaty with the annexation of Savoy.

Mr. ROEBUCK inveighed against the Emperor of the French, whom he accused of breach of treaties. He feared, he said, lest England should be thought to truckle to him. With the treaty of commerce he should be anxious to close, if he could; but the consideration of that question ought to be deferred until the House had an opportunity of declaring its opinion on the annexation of Savoy.

Mr. CONINGHAM protested against such language as Mr. Roebuck had applied to the ruler of France.

Lord J. RUSSELL said, if it was thought necessary to take the whole question of Savoy out of the hands of her Majesty's Government, the course proposed might be useful; but there was one course which was consistent neither with constitutional proceedings nor with the confidence usually placed in the Government, and, above all, not consistent with amicable feelings between this country and France; and that was, renewing day after day irritating discussions upon this subject, asking for no decisive vote, proposing no definite result, but sowing suspicion and distrust, calculated to bring about a total rupture with a neighbouring friendly country. After recapitulating the course which the question had taken, and the position in which it now stood, he said his persuasion was that, if the language of disapprobation was heard from all the great Powers, the project of annexation would not be persevered in. The Government of Sardinia, the Power most interested in the question, had not spoken upon the subject.

After some further discussion the motion was withdrawn.

TRADE.

The House then went into Committee upon the Customs Acts, when certain resolutions were agreed to repealing and reducing duties on a great variety of articles not under treaty.

In a Committee of Ways and Means a resolution was agreed to granting drawbacks and allowances upon spirits.

SAVINGS BANKS.

On the order for the second reading of the Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Investments Bill, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER explained its general nature. The government and management of savings banks, and the security which depositors ought to enjoy or did enjoy as respected the liabilities to them, this bill, he said, had nothing to do with. Its main object was to provide for a real and *bond fide* statement of this portion of the National Debt. It likewise imposed certain limitations upon the powers of the Executive Government over the moneys of savings banks and friendly societies, and it provided a larger liberty of investment for those funds than heretofore, under certain restrictions, and a power of varying securities. The effect of the proposed arrangements would be a permanent saving to the country in two or three years of not less than £40,000 or £50,000 a year. The bill was read a second time.

INCLOSURE OF HAMPSHIRE HEATH.

On the order for the second reading of the Settled Estates Act (1856) Amendment Bill,

Mr. BYNG moved to defer the second reading for six months, reminding the House of the repeated attempts which had been made to effect the object of this bill—namely, the inclosing or building upon Hampstead Heath by Sir T. Wilson.

Upon a division the amendment was carried by 86 to 43; so the bill is lost. The remaining business having been disposed of, the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

SAVOY.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH asked whether the views of her Majesty's Government with respect to the annexation of Savoy had been communicated to the Governments of Russia, Prussia, and Austria; and whether steps had been taken to obtain their co-operation in inducing France to abandon that project?

The Duke of NEWCASTLE said that the views of her Majesty's Government had been communicated to the Governments of Russia, Prussia, and Austria—to the two latter Powers on the 17th of February, and to the former on the 25th of the same month. Her Majesty's Government had not by a specific proposition invited the co-operation of those three Powers in a protest against the annexation of Savoy to France.

INDIA.

Lord MONTEAGLE moved for copies of the statement, founded on detailed reports from the several presidencies and districts in India, and exhibiting the moral and material progress of India, directed to be annually prepared and laid before Parliament under the 21st and 22nd of Victoria, cap. 100, section 53; also, all the correspondence between the Government of India and the home Government relating thereto; and, also, copies of any correspondence between the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India on the subject of the introduction of a Government bank and paper currency in India.

The Duke of ARGYLL said the statistical returns alluded to had not been received at the India House. As soon, however, as they should be received they would be laid before Parliament. With regard to the minute of Mr. Wilson on the currency, it was desirable not to produce it before the despatch in answer to it could be produced also.

The first part of the return was ultimately agreed to and the latter part withdrawn.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PURCHASE SYSTEM IN THE ARMY.

Sir DE LACY EVANS moved an address to her Majesty, praying that she would be pleased to order the gradual abolition, as soon as practicable, of the sale and purchase of commissions in the Army (having due regard in doing so to existing rights), with the view of substituting for the purchase system promotion, partly by selection, partly seniority, grounded on war services of merit, length of colonial and home services, and attested professional fitness. In a speech of considerable length he pointed out the evils of the purchase system, and discussed the arguments urged in its favour, reminding the House that he did not propose the sudden abolition of the system.

The motion was seconded by Mr. RICH, who said that the question substantially was whether merit or money should be the passport to rank in the Army?

Captain L. VERNON moved, as an amendment, a resolution that whereas the promotion in the seniority corps already existing—viz., the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, and Royal Marines—being of an unsatisfactory character, it is not desirable to extend the seniority system to the whole of the Army. He argued that the seniority system was not so entirely one of unmixed good as the mover and seconder of the motion supposed; and he supported this argument by showing the results of the system in the corps he referred to, numbering 45,000 men, and in the Indian army, where promotion was so slack that the officers invented a purchase system of their own. As a proof that merit obtained promotion without purchase, he cited

the case of Sir De Lacy Evans himself, who, in six months, by his meritorious services, had advanced from the rank of Lieutenant to that of Lieutenant-Colonel without the expense of one shilling; whereas in a seniority corps he could not have got beyond the rank of Captain. Without deciding what was the best system of promotion in the Army, he denounced the seniority system as the worst.

Colonel DICKSON said he was quite aware that great abuses had crept in under the purchase system, but there was a vast difference between improvement and total destruction. If the purchase system was abolished it was impossible for a poor man to enter a cavalry regiment unless the pay was increased to a very large extent. Its abolition would cost the country a large sum, and the system would not fail to re-enter the Army. Selection, so far from being a remedy, would, in his opinion, be the ruin of the British Army by extinguishing the esprit de corps, one of its leading features.

After a few remarks by Mr. O'BRIEN in support of the original motion, Sir F. SMITH observed that he did not see how selections and seniority could be combined. Who was to make the selection, and what were to be the grounds? What was to be the length of service, and who was to attest professional fitness? He recommended that things should be left as they were.

Captain JERNIS said if the purchase system was to be done away with the pay of the Army must be increased, so as to induce men to enter it who sought to support themselves by their pay.

Colonel LINDSAY expressed his belief that the system of purchase was most efficient, both for the Army and the public good. A system of non-purchase did exist, however, to a considerable extent; but purchase was quite compatible with every principle of examination, and merit was a frequent ground of promotion.

Colonel P. HERBERT hoped the House would not be led away by the opinions of officers in foreign services. He had conversed with foreign officers, and had always found that they laboured under the misapprehension that under our system of purchase commissions were put up to the highest bidders; but when they understood the system they admitted that it was an admirable one. He wished, he said, to put the defence of the system not on personal grounds, but on the ground of its efficiency, and on that of public economy.

Mr. S. HERBERT said that as an abstract proposition he thought seniority a bad ground of promotion; but the fact was that different portions of the Army had different principles of promotion. In the Queen's service the principle was seniority, accelerated by purchase; in the Indian army it was seniority pure. This question was, he thought, overloaded with exaggeration and error. Nothing was more erroneous than to assume that a non-purchaser was a hard-working officer, well acquainted with his profession, and that the purchasing officer was unacquainted with his profession. Then he had heard the most sanguine expectations held out that by the abolition of the purchase system the Army would get a superior class of men; on the other hand, it had been said it would deteriorate the Army. He believed that both assumptions were utterly untrue; that if the present system was abolished it would not make the slightest difference in the class of persons entering the Army. He urged the embarrassments incident to selection, besides the invidious character attached to the office; but, in considering the objections to a system of selection, he denied that, in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, it could be made an instrument of political influence or be employed for purposes of favouritism. He confessed that he viewed with apprehension and alarm the proposal for the entire abolition of purchase.

Holding as he did that purchase in some shape and in some ranks was necessary, and that it might be abolished in the higher, limiting it to the rank of Major, the principles laid down in the Royal Commission were those which the Government acknowledged, and it would be his duty to prepare a scheme to be laid before them and the military authorities founded upon those principles.

Mr. ELLICE advised the House not to assent to a proposition which was accompanied by so many difficulties. He insisted that the power of selection in the higher ranks would open a door to partialities and favouritism; and he should like to see, instead of this piece of patchwork, a scheme that would settle the affairs of the whole Army, that of India included.

Colonel NORTH believed that the project of Mr. Herbert would introduce the small end of the wedge that was ultimately to destroy the existing system. For the future the prospects of an officer would be restricted to the rank of Major.

Lord STANLEY said, as a member of the Commission, he was aware that the attempt to abolish the purchase system would be a work of great difficulty and enormous expense, and no plan had been proposed. A compromise resulted in the scheme proposed by Mr. Herbert, and, if the House proceeded to a division, he should vote against the motion.

The amendment having been withdrawn, the House divided upon Sir De Lacy Evans's motion, which was negatived by 213 to 59.

SAVOY—THE TREATY.

Mr. KINGLAKE gave notice of his intention to move an address to the Queen expressing the deep concern with which the House has heard of the contemplated annexation of Savoy and Nice to the French empire.—Mr. HORSMAN gave notice of a motion for the abrogation of that clause of the treaty which provides for the unrestricted exportation of coal to France.

THE CUSTOMS ACTS, ETC.

The report on the Customs Acts was brought up and agreed to, except the resolutions relating to malt and timber, which were deferred.

The report of the Committee of Ways and Means was likewise brought up and agreed to.

Certain bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PAYMENT OF CORONERS.

Mr. COBBETT, in moving the second reading of the Coroners (No. 2) Bill, noticed the disputes which had arisen on the subject of the payment of Coroners, and expressed his conviction that it was advisable to alter the mode of paying these officers by assigning to them, instead of fees, a fixed salary, to be paid out of the county rate. He argued strongly against the abolition of the office of Coroner, one of the most ancient and useful of our institutions.

Mr. JAMES moved, as an amendment, that a Select Committee be appointed to consider the state of the law and practice as regards the taking of inquisitions in cases of death and the remuneration now paid to Coroners, and whether it is expedient that any and what alteration should be made in the manner in which such remuneration is now made, and to consider the effect and operation of the statutes now in force upon that subject.

Sir G. LEWIS observed that, although the office of Coroner was one of high antiquity, and provided a security for the preservation of human life, modern changes had rendered it of less importance than in ancient times. One of those changes was the alteration of the old law of deodand. In conflicts between magistrates and Coroners the Coroner had no redress, the decision of the magistrates being final, and he had introduced a bill (which stood for second reading that day) giving the Coroner an appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench, which would afford a remedy for this practical grievance. His main objection to Mr. Cobbett's bill applied to the mode in which the salary was proposed to be fixed, and he should vote against the second reading. He thought his own bill a reasonable measure, but he had no objection to the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the expediency of paying the Coroner by salary, and was prepared to vote for the amendment.

The discussion which followed embraced four propositions—the second reading of Mr. Cobbett's bill; the amendment to refer the whole subject to a Select Committee; the merits of the Government bill; and the question whether both bills should not go simultaneously before the Select Committee. The result was that Mr. Cobbett's motion was negatived; and the amendment moved by Mr. James, with the addition of certain words (proposed by Sir G. Grey) enlarging the terms of reference to the Committee, was agreed to upon the understanding that the Government bill would be postponed.

THE CONSOLIDATED FUND.

In a Committee of Ways and Means a resolution was agreed to granting to her Majesty a sum out of the Consolidated Fund.

THE CUSTOMS ACTS.

The report of the Committee on the Customs Acts was agreed to.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

SAVOY AND NICE.

In reply to the Earl of Carnarvon, on the subject of Lord Cowley's private letters to Lord J. Russell,

The Duke of NEWCASTLE said the noble Earl must excuse him entering into the question, especially as this subject was sure fully to undergo discussion. All he would say at the present moment was, that he did not think that any blame attached either to Lord Cowley or those who received the letters in question. Whether there was anything in those private letters that would alter the case as it at present stood, that was entirely a matter of opinion. But he could assure the noble Earl that Parliament had before it the whole of the case as it at present stood.

The Marquis of NORMANBY said he thought such an important subject as that of the annexation of Savoy to France ought not to have been treated for a moment as a private matter.

Earl GREY thought that without the whole of the correspondence on this subject was produced Parliament would be to a great extent precluded from fully and properly discussing the question.

Lord WODKHOUSE said there certainly was not in existence any important communication, as seemed to be supposed, from Count Walewski.

The conversation then dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SAVOY AND NICE.

Mr. KINGLAKE, at the request of Lord J. Russell, postponed his motion relating to Savoy and Nice from Monday next to Monday, the 19th inst.

POLICY OF MINISTERS REGARDING THE PAPAL TERRITORIES.

Mr. SULLY asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether, her Majesty's Ministers being all Protestants while a large proportion of the Queen's subjects were Catholics, it was the intention of the present Government to observe faithfully the principle of absolute non-intervention, so far at least as regarded the territories and sovereignty of his Holiness the Pope?

Lord PALMERSTON could assure the hon. member that the foreign policy of her Majesty's Government was not influenced either by the religion of Ministers or of any section of her Majesty's subjects. That policy was founded on much larger and higher considerations. He had already stated, with regard to the affairs of Italy, that the principle which the Government endeavoured to inculcate was to leave the people of that country free to arrange their own affairs according to their own notions of what was best for their own interests. He trusted that they would be able to make such arrangements as would secure their peace and prosperity.

GREAT BELL IN THE CLOCK TOWER.

In answer to Mr. Alderman Salomons,

Mr. COWPAR said the bell was cracked in no less than five places, but whether that was occasioned by the hammer being too heavy or the tenacity of the bell, or the metal being too brittle for the capacity of the hammer—(Laughter)—he could not say.

THE WHITWORTH RIFLE.

Mr. W. EGERTON asked the Secretary of State for War whether it was true that the offer of Mr. Whitworth's gratuitous services to adapt the Enfield establishment to the production of rifles on his system had been refused by Government; and, if so, whether he had any objection to state the reason why?

Mr. S. HERBERT said such an offer had been made in 1858, and no doubt it was refused on the ground of the expense that would be incurred in carrying out the proposal.

THE COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH FRANCE.

Mr. BYNG moved that "an humble address be presented to her Majesty to assure her Majesty that, having considered the treaty of commerce concluded between her Majesty and the Emperor of the French, this House begs leave to approach her Majesty with their sincere and grateful acknowledgments for this new proof of her Majesty's desire to promote the welfare and happiness of her subjects; to assure her Majesty that we shall proceed to take such steps as may be necessary for giving effect to a system which, we trust, will promote a beneficial intercourse between Great Britain and France, tend to the extension of trade and manufacture, and give additional security for the continuance of the blessings of peace." The honourable gentleman, in the course of his speech, defended the foreign policy of the Government, which, he said, was based upon conciliation and non-interference, and argued that the treaty of commerce was calculated to draw England and France closer together in the bonds of friendship and united interests. He challenged those who were disposed to condemn the treaty to express their opinions in the shape of an amendment to displace the Government who had negotiated it. But if, on the other hand, the compact could not be impugned upon any substantial ground, he exhorted the House to be unanimous upon the subject, and to approach the Throne with a cordial address approving of the treaty (Cheers).

Mr. E. BAINES seconded the motion, and bore testimony to the fact that all the commercial interests of the country had given their sanction to the treaty.

Mr. LINDSAY said he had given notice of the addition of the following words—"While, however, we highly appreciate the efforts made by the Emperor of the French in the adoption of the beneficial principles of trade which this treaty establishes, we would rejoice to see those principles extended by a treaty of navigation, which should enable us to carry out more effectually the intercourse between the two nations. We therefore humbly pray that her Majesty will adopt such measures as may appear best calculated, by means of a supplementary treaty or otherwise, to carry into effect the abolition of all differential duties on the trade carried on in British and French vessels between the ports of England and France, and their respective colonies and dependencies, and from port to port within those limits." The hon. gentleman said, as he had heartily approved of the treaty as far as it went, he would throw no obstacle in the way of its adoption, and would therefore reserve his amendment as an substantive motion for another evening.

Mr. PEACOCK did not object to the Government making attempts to convert France to free trade, but he contended that a system of bargaining and chipping was not the proper mode to bring about that conversion. He denied that the advantages of the treaty were at all reciprocal.

Mr. CLAY supported the treaty.

Mr. COCHRANE deprecated a motion which he considered would tie us down for ten years to a nation in the ruler of which we had no confidence.

Mr. W. EWART gave his cordial concurrence to the treaty.

Mr. MAQUIRE believed the present treaty would prove a great good to England and a great blessing to France.

Mr. RIDLEY supported the motion.

Lord ADOLPHUS VANE TEMPEST said, although he supported the Government in their financial propositions, he could not vote for the address, believing that the Emperor of the French had evinced a great want of candour and sincerity in regard to the territories of Savoy and Nice. He would, therefore, move as an amendment the following:—"After the word 'that' to add these words, 'this House approaches her Majesty with great devotion and respect. Whilst fully appreciating the advantageous results to be obtained by increased commercial intercourse between England and France, and estimating the present friendly connection between the two countries, this House yet declines to express an opinion upon the treaty until such time as the final decision of the Emperor of the French in respect to the project for the annexation of Savoy be made known to the House.'" Mr. BOVILL seconded the amendment.

Sir H. CAIRNS, having stated his objections to several articles of the treaty, declared notwithstanding that he would vote for the motion, because he believed that the total rejection of the treaty would be attended with greater evil in the present state of affairs than its adoption.

Mr. M. GIBSON looked upon the objections raised as involving minor points, which should not be allowed to stand in the way of an unanimous declaration on the part of the House in favour of a treaty that was pregnant with the best results to the two great nations that were parties to it (Cheers).

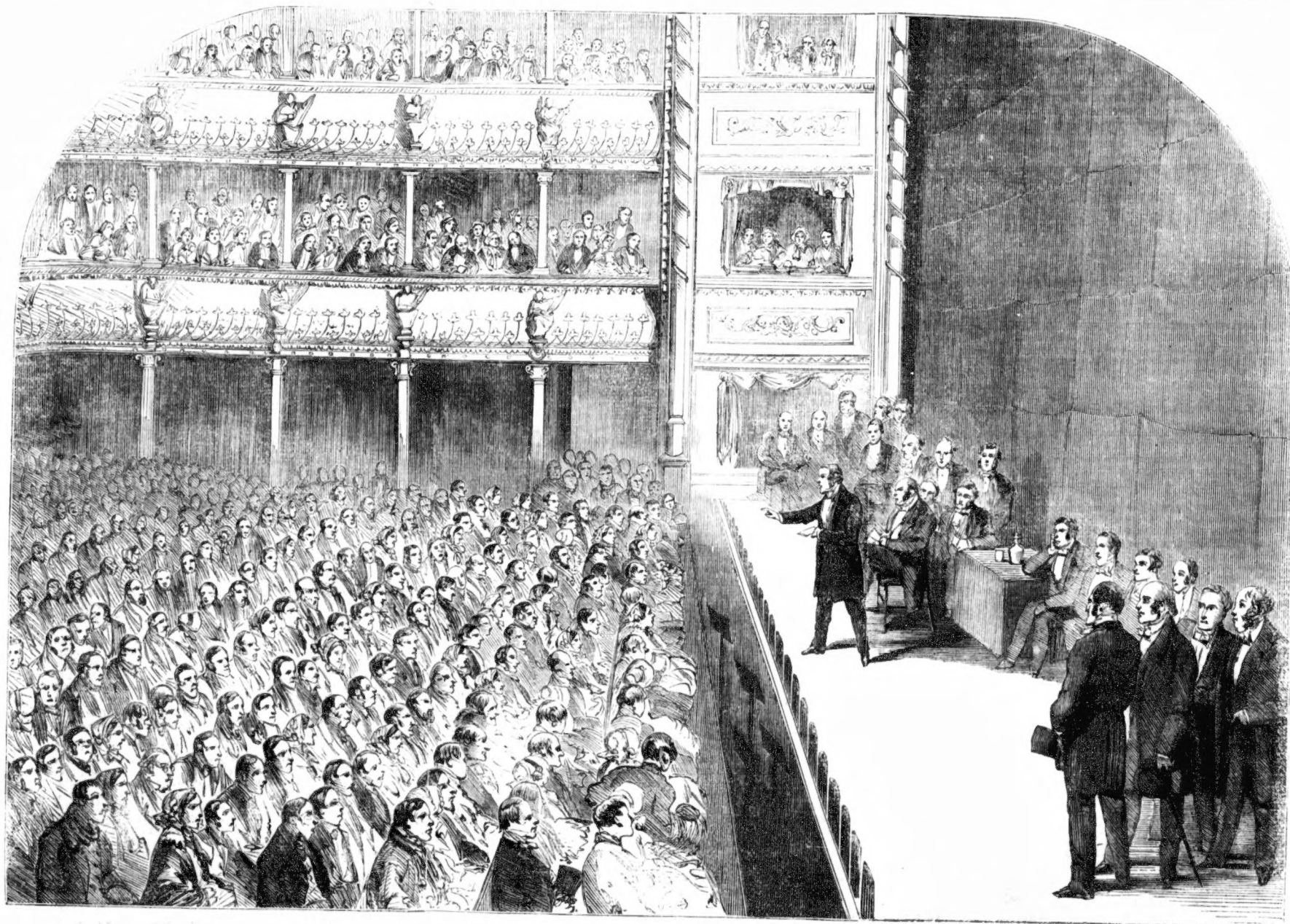
Sir S. NORTHGOTE condemned the treaty as an incomplete and a slovenly document; and as regards the 11th article, relating to coal, binding this country to a certain course of action in regard to France highly dangerous to the national interests.

Mr. HORSMAN moved the adjournment of the debate.

Lord ADOLPHUS VANE TEMPEST having withdrawn his amendment, the debate was adjourned.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.—A body of 250 policemen of the K division presided over the services at St. George's Church on Sunday last, and, to a considerable extent, succeeded in preserving order. Notwithstanding their exertions, however, there were some serious disturbances in the afternoon, the result of which, unfortunately, was to bring the Rev. Bryan King, the Rector, into the police court as defendant on several summonses for assault. The morning service was quiet; and Mr. King, who preached, was uninterrupted. In the afternoon the Rev. Thomas Richardson, the newly-elected Lecturer, preached a sermon moderate in tone and conciliatory in manner. As soon as it was over a party of young men took possession of the choristers' seats, of which they remained in patient possession until just upon six o'clock, when the Rector, accompanied by several members of his choir, entered the church and ordered them to leave, stating that he was legally the freeholder of the church, and that no one had a right to be there without his permission. The persons thus addressed refused to move, upon which Mr. King took one of them by the collar and dragged him off the seat; another person then seized him and dragged him to the vestry-room, where he was locked up as a prisoner. A similar operation was performed upon a second man, then upon a boy, while a young man named Littlejohn, the son of a vestryman, was so severely handled by the Rector that his clothes were torn. While this fracas was going on several policemen were in the church, but in answer to appeals made to them they stated that they had no authority to interfere; but at the same time intimated that if either of the persons thus assaulted would give Mr. King into custody they would consider themselves bound to take the charge. Five or six of these persons declined to do this, preferring an application to the magistrate for summonses against the rev. Rector. The evening service was peaceable—the tremendous body of police who were present completely overawing the noisy portion of the congregation. The sermon—which was by no means judicious or attractive—was preached by the Rev. C. J. Le Gey, M.A., incumbent of St. Matthias, Stoke Newington. After the Rector and his friends had retired the people struck up the doxology, and the organist, with capital tact, helped them out, and thus prevented any disturbance. A crowded meeting has been held in the parish with a view to raise funds for the defence of Mr. Rector in the Ecclesiastical Courts. This meeting also adopted petitions praying for the removal of Mr. Bryan King from the rectoryship and for a revision of the Prayer-book.

THE NEW FRENCH SHEATHED FRIGATES.—The iron-sheathed frigate *La Normandie*, built at Cherbourg, is to be launched to-day (Saturday). The iron plates with which she is covered weigh more than 1000 tons, which is the burden of a first-class merchant-ship. Beneath the iron is a covering of teakwood. The frigate is to be armed with thirty-six rifled cannon of large calibre. When armed her total weight will be 6000 tons, which is 1000 more than a sailing three-decked ship of the line. The frigate was commenced in 1858. Eighteen months were employed in her construction.



SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AT THE BRITANNIA THEATRE.

SUNDAY PREACHING AT THE BRITANNIA THEATRE.

For the last few Sundays the Britannia Theatre at Hoxton has been converted into a temple. The stage has become a pulpit, and the "front of the house" has been turned into free sittings. Mr. Dickens, in his admirable papers of "The Uncommercial Traveller," has described a visit he made to the place, and we cannot do better than quote him:—

"There must have been full four thousand people present. Carefully estimating the pit alone, I could bring it out as holding little less than fourteen hundred. Every part of the house was well filled, and I had not found it easy to make my way along the back of the boxes to where I sat. The chandeliers in the ceiling were lighted; there was no light on the stage; the orchestra was empty. The green curtain

was down, and packed pretty closely on chairs on the small space of stage before it were some thirty gentlemen and two or three ladies. In the centre of these was the presiding minister.

"A portion of Scripture was being read when I went in. It was followed by a discourse, to which the congregation listened with most exemplary attention and uninterrupted silence and decorum. My own



MEMORIAL ARCH TO THE OFFICERS AND SAPPERS OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS WHO FELL IN THE RUSSIAN WAR.

attention comprehended both the auditory and the speaker, and shall turn to both in this recalling of the scene, exactly as it did at the time. "A very difficult thing," I thought, when the discourse began, 'to speak appropriately to so large an audience, and to speak with tact. Without it, better not to speak at all. Infinitely better to read the New Testament well, and let *that* speak. In this congregation there is indubitably one pulse; but I doubt if any power short of genius can touch it as one, and make it answer as one.

"I could not possibly say to myself as the discourse proceeded, that

the minister was a good speaker. I could not possibly say to myself that he expressed an understanding of the general mind and character of his audience. There was a supposititious working-man introduced into the homily to make supposititious objections to our Christian religion and be reasoned down, who was not only a very disagreeable person, but remarkably unlike life—very much more unlike it than anything I had seen in the pantomime. The native independence of character this artisan was supposed to possess was represented by a suggestion of a dialect that I certainly never heard in my uncommercial travels,

and with a coarse swing of voice and manner anything but agreeable to his feelings, I should conceive, considered in the light of a portrait, and as far away from the fact as a Chinese Tartar. There was a model pauper introduced in like manner, who appeared to me to be the most intolerably arrogant pauper ever relieved, and to show himself in absolute want and dire necessity of a course of Stone Yard. For how did this pauper testify to his having received the gospel of humility? A gentleman met him in the workhouse, and said (which I myself really thought good-natured of him), 'Ah, John? I am sorry to see



CROSSING THE BROOK.—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY W. MULREADY, IN THE VERNON GALLERY.)

you here. I am sorry to see you so poor.' 'Poor, sir!' replied that man, drawing himself up, 'I am the son of a Prince! My father is the King of Kings. My father is the Lord of Lords. My father is the ruler of all the Princes of the Earth!' &c. And this was what all the preacher's fellow-sinners might come to if they would embrace this blessed book—which I must say it did some violence to my own feelings of reverence to see held out at arm's length at frequent intervals and soundly slapped, like a slow lot at a sale. Now, could I help asking myself the question, whether the mechanic before me who must detect the preacher as being wrong about the visible manner

of himself and the like of himself, and about such a noisy lip-server as that pauper, might not, most unhappily for the usefulness of the occasion, doubt that preacher's being right about things not visible to human senses?

"Again, is it necessary or advisable to address such an audience continually as 'fellow-sinners?' Is it not enough to be fellow-creatures, born yesterday, suffering and striving to-day, dying to-morrow? By our common humanity, my brothers and sisters, by our common capacities for pain and pleasure, by our common laughter and our common tears, by our common aspiration to reach something better than

ourselves, by our common tendency to believe in something good, and to invest whatever we love or whatever we lose with some qualities that are superior to our own failings and weaknesses as we know them in our own poor hearts—by these. Hear me!—Surely, it is enough to be fellow-creatures. Surely, it includes the other designation and some touching meanings over and above.

"All slangs and twangs are objectionable everywhere, but the slang and twang of the conventicle—as bad in its way as that of the House of Commons, and nothing worse can be said of it—should be studiously avoided under such circumstances as I describe. The avoidance was

not complete on this occasion. Nor was it quite agreeable to see the preacher addressing his pet 'points' to his backers on the stage, as if appealing to those disciples to shore him up, and testify to the multitude that each of those points was a clincher.

"The time appointed for the conclusion of the proceedings was eight o'clock. The address having lasted until full that time, and it being the custom to conclude with a hymn, the preacher intimated in a few sensible words that the clock had struck the hour, and that those who desired to go before the hymn was sung could go now without giving offence. No one stirred. The hymn was then sung, in good time and tune and unison, and its effect was very striking. A comprehensive benevolent prayer dismissed the throng, and in seven or eight minutes there was nothing left in the theatre but a light cloud of dust.

"That these Sunday meetings in theatres are good things I do not doubt. Nor do I doubt that they will work lower and lower down in the social scale, if those who preside over them will be very careful on two heads—firstly, not to disparage the places in which they speak, or the intelligence of their hearers; secondly, not to set themselves in antagonism to the natural inborn desire of mankind to recreate themselves and to be amused."

MEMORIAL TO THE ROYAL ENGINEERS WHO FELL IN THE CRIMEA.

THE Duke of Cambridge has laid the foundation-stone of a memorial which is to be erected in honour of those officers and men of the Royal Engineers who fell in the Crimea. The memorial, the erection of which has been for some time in contemplation, will be built on the eastern end of the parade-ground at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, a site which is one of the best that could have been selected. It will be built from designs furnished by Mr. Digby Wyatt, and will consist of a lofty central arch 22 feet in height, with two side arches, each about 13 feet in height. The entire structure will be upwards of 30 feet in height, 44 feet in width, and 10 feet in depth or thickness. It will be built of Portland stone, faced with marble elaborately carved, and bearing the name of every officer, non-commissioned officer, and private of the Royal Engineers who fell in the Crimea. The cost of the structure—which will be at least £7000 exclusive of the ironwork, which will be formed from guns taken from the Russians, and presented by the Government—will be defrayed by the subscriptions of the officers and men. The builders are Messrs. Mansfield and Sons, of Gray's-inn-road.

On arriving at the Strand station the Duke of Cambridge was received by a guard of honour selected from the Royal Marines and the East India regiments, the guard being composed of none but men who had served in the Crimea and were decorated with the Crimean medal. The Duke proceeded at once to the garrison, and on arriving at the drawbridge the guns from the Cornwallis battery fired a Royal salute. The whole of the troops of the garrison, to the number of about 6000 men, were drawn up on the parade-ground of Chatham Barracks to await the arrival of the Duke; and his Royal Highness, having spent a short time in inspecting the men, proceeded to perform the ceremony of the day. To give effect to the proceedings extensive preparations had been made: every inch of the lofty scaffolding used in the building of the memorial was covered with flags, while from four lofty poles were displayed the colours of England, France, Sardinia, and Turkey—the nations which fought together in the Crimea. Above the scaffold was placed the word "Crimea" in branches of laurel. On each side of the stone were galleries for the accommodation of ladies—the general public, among whom the gay uniforms of nearly 200 officers were conspicuous, being admitted in the space round the stone. The approaches were lined on each side by the troops of the Royal and Indian Engineers.

Among the distinguished officers who accompanied his Royal Highness were General Sir J. F. Burgoyne, General Sir C. W. Pasley, General Sir Henry Jones, General Oldfield, General H. Eyre, Colonel Sandham, Colonel Gordon, Colonel Stothard, &c. The ceremony was performed in the customary manner; the Rev. Mr. Green, senior Chaplain of the garrison, offering up an appropriate prayer, after which Mr. D. Wyatt presented his Royal Highness with a photographic view of the proposed memorial, together with the plans, which he spent some time in inspecting. A silver trowel was then handed to his Royal Highness, with which he spread the mortar, after which the stone, which was decorated with laurel, was lowered to its place, the Royal Engineers' band playing, "Sleepers, awake!" from Mendelssohn's "St. Paul." After the stone had been lowered his Royal Highness examined it with the thesaurus, struck it with the mallet, and said, "I declare this stone to be well and duly laid," a fact which was immediately proclaimed by a salute of twenty-one guns. The Duke of Cambridge afterwards partook of luncheon in the messroom of the Royal Engineers, to which about a hundred distinguished officers had been invited. The officers of the Royal Engineers gave a grand banquet in their messroom in the evening in honour of the occasion.

"CROSSING THE BROOK"

CONSIDERING that Mr. Mulready is an Irishman, there may be a sort of paradoxical fitness in speaking of him as the most successful of modern English painters. At any rate, bull or no bull, such is the fact. Our latter-day English art school, of hard truths adorned by brilliant colour, has in no instance been more triumphantly represented than by its earliest disciple, the painter of "The Wolf and the Lamb," "The Hayfield," and "Choosing the Wedding Gown." Mr. Mulready knew how to paint the grain of an oak panel, the knots in a beech-tree, the grass in a meadow, and the muscles in a human body, long ere Mr. Dante Gabriel Rossetti (backed by his able accomplice Ruskin) had invented the latter-day perplexity of pre-Raphaelitism.

The few pictorial gems known to the world as Mulready's productions are so startling in their excellence of composition and execution as to bewilder the spectator with wonderment as to why the man who accomplished those things should be less than a Vandyck, a Rubens, or a Hogarth. They are all truthful, glowing, and generally humorous. But it seems to be the curse of modern artistic productions that we should all try to be, "like Mr. Cerberus, three gentlemen at once!" Under a less exacting commercial régime William Mulready might have immortalised great men's features as Vandyck did; might have represented the fairest aspects of human flesh as Rubens did; might have exhibited the weaknesses of social organisation much as Hogarth did. But circumstances compelled him to try and combine the triple attributes. The result is not to be complained of. Aiming to be, at once, truthful and inoffensive, he has not succeeded in proving himself a Vandyck, a Rubens, or a Hogarth; but he has turned out an irreproachable Mulready.

Our engraving of this week, "Crossing the Brook," is a faithful reproduction of one of this great painter's most successful works. It tells its own story. It is a rustic scene—as true and as good, in its way, as an idyll by Tennyson. We are not a boasting people, we English; but, if I (the writer of these few lines) should be called upon to decide upon an artistic equivalent to our poet laureate, I should unhesitatingly mention the name of William Mulready. He is the great English artist—an old man, I am told, and I am very sorry to hear it.

THE CLERGY AND THE INCOME TAX.—A clergyman in Wales having written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer requesting that the clergy paying poor rates may be exempted from the income tax, Mr. Gladstone has replied that the income tax has not originated with the Ministry, but in the will of the nation, which now thinks fit to spend thirty-six millions on the same services which a few years ago only cost twenty-one millions. He admits that the tax presses heavily upon the clergy, but says he has not observed on their part a general desire to check expenditure.

SIR ROBERT PEEL AND THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.—The Newcastle Foreign Affairs Association having addressed a letter to Sir Robert Peel, thanking him for his recent speech on the rifle-corps movement, Sir Robert has written a letter to the secretary of the association reiterating his opinion that the movement is an "insane" one, only to be met with derision; and declaring it to be his intention "to check this parade of armed force."

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In the ILLUSTRATED TIMES OF SATURDAY NEXT will appear TWO PAGE ENGRAVINGS of the PRESENTATION OF VOLUNTEER OFFICERS TO THE QUEEN, and of the VOLUNTEER BALL AT THE FLORAL HALL.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1860.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

THE volunteers have been the lions of London this week, and have had no reason to complain of the position. Their levee, dinner, and ball went off well; their merits have been everywhere publicly praised; and, as far as recognition and encouragement can go, the town has done well by them. The laughter of Sir Robert Peel, which is essentially of the kind that Scripture compares to "the crackling of thorns under a pot," seems only to have made their pot boil.

What remains is that, with as little braggadocio and "Come, if you dare!" business as possible, the volunteers should steadily perfect themselves in their work. Viewed simply as amusements, drilling in rifle companies, and practising with the rifle, have many good points. It is one way to secure exercise and maintain health, the becoming a rifleman, as the becoming a cricketer or boating-man; and a certain amount of public spirit and social friendliness is created by the organisation. Meanwhile, the ultimate object—always tacitly kept in view—will help to modify the snobbish tendency which seems inseparable from all organisation under a system of moneyed aristocracy. Those who make the movement an occasion for display or for airing a recently-acquired opulence, those who would create cliques in the middle of regiments, and so forth, will be held in check by the fact that real distinction in these bodies will in the long run be quasi-professional. The best rifleman will be the best man in a society whose object is to learn the rifle and rifle drill; and to make this the predominant spirit ought to be every sensible man's aim. For, after all, there must be many a volunteer who only takes up the thing as a fashion, and because he has little else to do, and such men will not be so harmless in a volunteer corps as under the far more elaborate and traditional system of a regular regiment.

The Duke of Cambridge, we think, hit exactly the right tone of discussing the affair in his speech at the dinner. We must not get into the way of talking as if, in the present era of the world, volunteers alone could defend a country. An army is a machine, and must be opposed by another machine—just as a prizefighter can only be thrashed by another prizefighter. We must, therefore, at all times, and under all circumstances, have plenty of regular forces to oppose to any that may be brought against us. The volunteers are to be looked on as a supplementary body to these—as a reserve in aid of these; and, in order to fill this place, they must be drilled thoroughly, and drilled not only as individuals but in bodies. We hope that the coming fine weather will see a greater range given to the movement, and the introduction into it of exercising in large bodies. A volunteer who seriously means to defend the country should get some inkling of what is meant by a campaign. Some, perhaps, suppose that a little picturesque skirmishing among woods is all that they become liable to by undertaking to resist an enemy who has landed. But to resist cold, and wet, and hunger—to march without a dinner, and sleep without a bed—are very probable demands to be made on the volunteer in such contingency. The young gentlemen in spectacles and goloshes whom a rainy day sends to gruel and the foot-tub should pause before they begin the goosestep, or should go into a general training for the improvement of their physical system at the same time. Of course, such fellows are not the bulk of the force; but even with strong men a great deal of exercise is required to fit them for active service. But, if the various regiments are not fit for active service, they are not worth the fuss, or a tithe of the fuss, which has been made about them this week.

We were glad to see in the Duke of Cambridge's speech that he undertook to welcome the volunteers on the part of the regular Army. This is the proper spirit. It is, also, a view in the long run beneficial to the Army itself. We hardly know anything more likely to spread a general kindness for the Army through the country than this taste for volunteering. The drill will show civilians what soldiers go through to fit them for their profession; and, as a long time must elapse before the volunteers approach anything like the efficiency of a regular force, they will always have the Army to look up to as a model during their practice. Fortunately, all things military are more respected in this country now than they were some years back; and it is desirable that they should. The peace of Europe is threatened with disturbance every day. Millions of trained men are under arms in Europe. The richer England is the more she has to lose. Those ungrateful traders who have prospered under the shadow of the old standard of the kingdom—upheld for them by gallant hands against all the world—may depreciate the obligation to which they owe everything, if they please. But this country is not yet sunk into a shop for the world only; and this the world is in a fair way of finding out.

PLAYING AT CLERGYMEN.—Six young peasants, four men and two females, of Caigarn, in the Ardennes, were some time ago tried by the Tribunal of Correctional Police of Sedan on the charge of outraging religion. The outrage consisted in their having, at a public dancing-room, made a young man, a stranger to the village, undergo the mimic ceremonies of baptism and marriage; some of them figuring as priests or singing boys with petticoats for surplices, a pan of milk for holy water, a broomstick for a crucifix, and so on; and the women figuring—one as a godmother in the baptism, and one of them as a bride in the marriage; and all going through the different forms observed in christenings and weddings, and singing grotesque imitations of the psalms chanted on such occasions. The tribunal, thinking that the young people had no evil intention, and finding, moreover, that they were of good character, and regular churchgoers, acquitted them. But a few days back an appeal was presented to the Imperial Court of Metz, and the Court, taking a more serious view of the matter, condemned two of the men to six days' imprisonment each, the other two men and one of the females to 16d. fine, but acquitting the other.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has extended the title of Lord Brougham and Vaux, hitherto limited to the present Peer, to his surviving brother, Mr. Wm. Brougham (formerly M.P. for Southwark, and Master in Chancery), and to his male heirs.

THE PRINCE CONSORT paid a special visit to the City on Saturday. He first examined the new frescoes at the Royal Exchange; then proceeded through the merchants' and underwriters' rooms at Lloyd's; then visited St. Michael's Church, Cornhill—lately restored; and, lastly, partook of lunch with the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House.

THE QUEEN has granted from the Royal Bounty Fund the sum of £50 to J. R. Withers, the "Poet" of Fordham.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA lately became so much worse that the Royal family at one time thought his death was at hand. He afterwards rallied a little.

THE PRINCE OF ORANGE visited the *Great Eastern* in Southampton Water on Monday.

THE GRAND DUKE MICHAEL, brother to the Emperor of Russia, has been appointed supreme chief of the military schools of Russia.

PRINCE ALBERT DE BROGLIE, whose last article on the Roman question brought down a second warning on the *Correspondant*, has just received from the Pope the wax taper which his Holiness carried in the ceremonies of Candlemas-day. Such a distinction is seldom conferred on any but Sovereigns.

THE *Opinion Nationale* says the National Guard of France is to be augmented to the number of 1,500,000 men.

MR. CHARLES LIVINGSTONE, brother of the African missionary, has sent home six samples of cotton grown by the natives of the highlands in the neighbourhood of the Shire. These samples are declared by a Manchester authority to be "all exceedingly useful qualities;" and Mr. Livingstone says there would be no difficulty in obtaining large quantities of such cotton, the people being industrious, peaceable, and anxious to trade.

M. JULIEN has attempted suicide by stabbing. He is now placed under restraint.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL announces that the French Government will recommend to the Legislature the repeal of the prohibition of the export of rags for paper-making.

THIRTY IRON GUN-BOATS are ordered to be built by the French Government for local service in the colonies of Senegal and the Antilles. They are to be made on the same model as those now being got ready for China.

POKORIO, who has lately been very ill, but is now quite recovered, will probably be a candidate for the representation of Milan in the National Parliament.

DURING THE LATE GALE upwards of four hundred fine old elm-trees were blown down in the Great Park at Windsor, and also several in the Long Walk and playing-grounds of Eton College.

THE CONVICT EDWIN THOMAS SAIT, who was to have been executed on Tuesday at Edinburgh for the murder of his wife, has been respited. It is expected that the sentence will be commuted into penal servitude for life.

A BALLET-DANCER at the Opera at Berlin lost her life three days since owing to her clothes catching fire at the footlights. Though there was plenty of assistance at hand, she was so dreadfully burnt that she died the next day.

THERE are no less than five submarine telegraphic cables now out of order—viz., the Channel Islands, Atlantic, Mediterranean, and the Red Sea cables, and the one between Singapore and Batavia.

ANOTHER MASSACRE of an English ship's crew by Polynesian savages is recorded in the Australian papers. The ship (*the Pearl*, of Sydney) was burnt, and the nine persons on board, including the captain, were killed and eaten.

A NUMEROUS MEETING OF JOURNEYMEN BAKERS was held in Exeter Hall on Wednesday evening, for the purpose of promoting the short-time movement, which has been got up by that overworked class of the population. Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Ebury, and Mr. Coningham, M.P., took part in the proceedings.

SIR HENRY SOMERSET is about to resign the command of the Bombay Army it is said; he will be succeeded by Sir Hugh Rose.

THE METROPOLIS was on Wednesday visited with another severe gale, which, among the feats it performed, nearly destroyed the new station of the South-Western Railway in the Waterloo-road.

A GREAT FIRE took place on Wednesday morning at an extensive printing establishment, extending some distance down St. Dunstan's-hill, Eastcheap. Property to the value of many thousands of pounds was destroyed.

THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS has resolved to open, in the first week in June next, an Exhibition of Modern Furniture in the Italian Style. The exhibition will include all kinds of decorated cabinetwork; works of art in metal, pottery, and glass; textile fabrics, such as curtains, table-covers, and carpets; composition ornaments, such as picture-frames, and brackets; and paperhangings.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE is to be favoured with a visit by the Queen at his seat at Clumber, near Retford, during the ensuing summer. It is said that during her Majesty's stay she will inspect the whole of the rifle corps now formed in the county of Nottingham.

A MANUSCRIPT HISTORY OF THE GOSPELS IN THE CELTIC LANGUAGE, written as early as the tenth century, has been discovered at Cambridge—says the *Inverness Courier*—together with other papers in the ancient Scotch-Celtic dialect. They are to be edited and published by Mr. Bradshaw.

A BARCELONA JOURNAL proposes that the new "conquest" of Spain, namely, Tetuan, may be offered to England in simple exchange for Gibraltar!

A DECREE has been issued by the Austrian authorities at Venice ordering all functionaries of the State to shave off their beards, and especially to discontinue the wearing of hats à la Cavour, which are considered as the emblem of the party opposed to the Imperial Government.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER has informed the Wakefield malsters that he does not see how it can be arranged to bond British malt, but, in the meantime, a duty will be proposed of 25s. per quarter on malt imported from abroad.

THE STONEMASONS AND LABOURERS OF HUDDERSFIELD have turned out in consequence of the refusal of the masters to give ten hours' pay for nine hours' work.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE REDUCTION OF THE QUEEN'S BOUNTY from £5 to £4 to recruits engaging with the Royal Marines, the augmentation of the corps is proceeding briskly.

PRINCE ALFRED has passed his examination for midshipman on board the *Euryalus*.

A CIRCULAR HAS BEEN ISSUED FROM THE WAR OFFICE ordering that no officers of volunteer corps shall wear a sash over their uniform, as it forms no part of the dress of either artillery or rifle corps in the regular army.

THE LIFE-BOAT OF THE *ILL-FATED Ondine* was picked up at sea and towed into Havre by a pilot-boat on Thursday week. It contained two dead bodies, male and female, the former apparently a sailor, and the latter a soldier's wife.

THE FRIENDS AND ADMIRERS OF THE LATE MR. HALLAM met last week on Monday, at Mr. Murray's, Albemarle-street, the Marquis of Lansdowne in the chair, when it was resolved to raise a memorial to the historian.

THE HALF OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE was opened on Thursday week, when foot passengers only were allowed to pass. It is now opened for carriage traffic.

LORD PALMERSTON has been elected a member of the Trinity House.

THE MASTER COTTON-SPINNERS OF PRESTON have agreed to advance the wages of the power-loom weavers five per cent, to commence on the 22nd instant, when the propriety of increasing the wages of other classes of operatives will be discussed.

AN AVIGNON JOURNAL states that M. Viollet-le-Duc, Inspector-General of Diocesan Edifices, has just prepared plans for the restoration of the Palace of the Popes in that city and also of the ramparts.

THE PRINCES OF PRUSSIA has presented M. Meyerbeer with a magnificent orchestral baton.

A NEW WORK on the subject of Dante has just appeared at Florence. It was discovered in the collections of the Vatican, and consists of dialogues written by Donato Giannotti, the friend and literary adviser of Dante. In these dialogues the author and his friend are represented discussing various important political questions apropos of the "Divina Comedia."

M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS has produced the first part of what purports to be a translation of "An Autobiography of Horace," discovered by M. Dumas in the Library of the Vatican! The opening portions are descriptive of Horace's boyhood—his first visit to Rome, and his being placed by his father under the care of Orbilius the Flogger.

"THE POPULAR STORIES OF THE ICELANDERS OF THE PRESENT TIME," collected from Oral Communication," edited by Professor Maurer, have been published by Brockhaus and Co., Leipzig.

MRS. KERLEY is about to return to the stage for a season. She will appear at the Lyceum for a limited number of nights in her original character of Margot in "The Sergeant's Wife."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

I have been almost terrified by the following piece of criticism in the *Telegraph* of Tuesday last upon a new farce at the Strand Theatre:—

Mr. W. Mowbray's impersonation of *Sidney Kynaston* was only remarkable for a distressing mispronunciation of the word "irrefragable." The mistake is certainly one that lies a good deal between Mr. Mowbray and his conscience, without affecting the public in any material degree; but, under any circumstances, it does seem a pity, in an age when pronouncing dictionaries are so cheap, that a good-looking young man should prejudice an audience against himself by pronouncing the *g* in *irrefragable* hard. Having been in the habit of lecturing on a subject involving the quotation from Butler—

Of Thomas, high irrefragable,

being moreover, I trust, a good-looking young man, and having always pronounced the *g* hard before the vowel *a*, I began at once to ask for a "pronouncing dictionary." But as none of my friends possessed such an article, which, I am informed, is not always found in the libraries of educated persons, I turned to Dr. Johnson for an etymology, and found "irrefragabilis—school Latin; *irrefragable*, French." As the *g* before *a* is certainly never soft in Latin or French, I fancy the critic of the *Telegraph* knows not quite so much of pronunciation as Mr. Mowbray.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES OF THE MONTH, WITH SOME REMARKS REGARDING THEIR RELATIVE POSITION.

MAGAZINE literature was generally considered to have been long declining, and in several instances to have reached its last gasp, when, a very few months ago, two new competitors entered the field, and, by their wealth of talent and resources, either asserted or understood, seemed determined to prove to the world that the belief was falsely based, and that, as there were still authors of renown to write and publishers of repute to pay for periodical publications, so must there be a large public by whom these publications would be bought and read. The two new monthlies of which I write were, of course, *Macmillan's* and the *Cornhill Magazine*; and as the former of these has now reached its fifth number, and the latter its third, it may not be out of place to consider the position they respectively occupy in the rank of periodical literature, and to inquire what, if any, may be the magazines they have pushed from their forms, and to what extent they fill any gap or supply any desideratum.

Assuming, as we safely may, that magazines are purchased by the majority for the mere purpose of amusement, for the getting-through of the railway journey or the quiet evening, it is plain that the *Cornhill* has a much greater chance of success than the other, and this the result has proved. *Macmillan's Magazine* has, it is said, a circulation of fifteen thousand, and, when we consider that only one story has appeared in its pages (and that a class novel, which from its scenes of action and its characters is only relishable by, or even intelligible to, a certain number, and that all other papers have been essays on very serious and abstruse subjects), we may wonder even at this amount of popularity. This, however, is explicable by the fact that its contributors are class-writers—men of the highest attainments and education—and belonging to a set which has very great influence and most commendable esprit de corps. All present Oxonians and Cantabs of a reflective turn, hundreds of well-to-do divines in snug country benefices, numbers of struggling curates in crowded city parishes, high placemen and Fellows of their colleges, busy barristers, toiling merchants, even men who have emerged from collegiate seclusion into flaunting military life or hopeless idleness and fortune, will purchase *Macmillan* for the sake of old associations, of old reminiscences of Alma Mater, of still unquenched desires to know what are the feelings and opinions of the best of those among whom their happiest days were passed.

The *Cornhill Magazine* is conducted in a very different spirit, and has a widespread popularity as its essential aim. Conducted by an author who within the last six months has made a most extraordinary stride in general opinion (his literary name always revered by men of taste and judgment, being at this moment, perhaps without exception, the most popular among the writers of England, in the public ear)—adorned by a story from his pen, by a novel contributed by the best of the second-rate novelists, and duly weighted by a certain amount of heavy matter rendered palatable by judicious treatment, and known to emanate from excellent authorities—this magazine bids fair to achieve a very extended permanent circulation, and the issue of its early numbers may even have reached that almost fabulous amount which rumour ascribes to it. That the great guns will require considerably better backing up than they have in many instances hitherto had, and that much which has hitherto been admitted, either on account of personal friendship or in respect to the writer's name, will have to be omitted if the periodical is to be rendered worthy of its parentage, is indisputable, but it is equally indisputable that there is evidence of all the elements of success.

Will either of the newcomers allure one subscriber from his monthly payment to *Blackwood* or *Fraser*? I think not. There are qualities in both the old that you find in neither of the new—in *Blackwood* an honest, hearty, bluff outspokenness, an unswerving, uncompromising belief in the impossibility of error in its political creed, a fierceness and a thoroughness in its criticisms on art, literature, and passing events which you would seek for in vain in the temporising politeness of the *Cornhill* or the would-be earnest, but often dreamy, principles of *Macmillan*. The writers in *Fraser*, too, have, apparently, a monopoly of elegant writing—as one of their contributors and one of the most charming essayists in the language expresses it, an "art of putting things" which is unequalled. Meanwhile we, the general public, gain by this rivalry; and, so long as the first of the month brings to our study-table so much pure and healthy literature as at present, we may pray for its continuance.

The opening paper in the new *Blackwood* is an account of Lord Elgin's mission to China and Japan, being the cream of Mr. Oliphant's book on that subject; and, knowing that Mr. Oliphant is, justly enough, one of Messrs. Blackwood's most valued writers, and that his book has been read by most people, it will not be necessary to explain the views taken in the magazine. The poem of "St. Stephen's" is concluded this month, and has vastly improved in its progress. In this contribution there are several strong, nervous lines and much poetic imagery, while throughout the political sentiment is more liberal and generous than is generally found in the pages of *Maya*. "Nelson and Garaccio" is a warm and earnest defence of Nelson in his conduct with Lady Hamilton, whose accomplice he is described, in "Rose's Diaries and Correspondence" in deeds of piracy and murder! As a counterpoise to "Betsy Brown," a silly story told in silly verse, there is a grand translation of that able poem the "Dies Ira," and a good, sensible article on "Tom Jones." Of the serials "St. Stephen's" is at length concluded, and "Norman Sinclair" concluded. The political articles are on the "Connections of the House of Bull" and the "Anglo-Gallican Budget." The tenor of the latter may be guessed from its concluding words, "We are against the treaty altogether. We say, let it die, perish as waste paper, and let each country adjust its own tariff according to its exigencies."

Fraser opens with some very interesting and hitherto unpublished letters from Percy Bysshe Shelley to "Headlong Hall" Peacock, in which the soft, dreamy voluptuousness and keen sense of the beautiful in the poet are everywhere traceable. Some of his thoughts on then modern poetry and poets are, however, bold and to the point. I extract some of his opinions:—

The news of the result of the elections, especially that of the metropolis, is highly inspiring. I received a letter of two days' later date with yours which announced the unfortunate termination of that of Westminster. I wish you had sent me some of the overflowing villany of those apostates. What a pitiful wretch that Wordsworth! That such a man should be such a poet! I can compare him with no one but Simonides, that flatterer of the Sicilian tyrants, and at the same time the most natural and tender of lyric poets.

Among the modern things which have reached me is a volume of poems by Keats—in other respects insignificant enough, but containing the fragment of a poem called "Hyperion." I dare say you have not time to read it; but it is certainly an astonishing piece of writing, and gives me a conception of Keats which I confess I had not before.

Amend your anathemas of the modern attempts in poetry do you include Keats's "Hyperion"? I think it fine. His other poems are worth little; but if the "Hyperion" be not grand poetry none has been produced by our contemporaries.

Then follows an essay written in that delightful language, and that sweet, genuine spirit, which characterise all the works of the same author. A. K. H. B., "Concerning the Worries of Life and How to Meet Them." The writings of this gentleman are now so well known and so universally esteemed that further laudation of them is unnecessary; suffice it to say that the present essay is a worthy companion to its forerunners. There is a very sensible paper on "Female Labour," a view of the subject which is necessary in these days of somewhat extravagant feeling on this point, a wholesome corrective to a too extensive and morbid pseudo-philanthropy; a bitter philippic against Louis Napoleon, whose "intentions" are tested by his "conduct"; a favourable review of the *Wine Question*; and a very interesting article based on the letters and papers of Madame Recamier. The story of "Holmby House" is concluded this month.

The third number of the *Cornhill Magazine* contains *imprimis* certainly the best portion of "Lovel the Widower" that has yet appeared. The story progresses, and nothing can be more truthful and better than the character-sketching. Lady Baker is a gem, so is Mrs. Prior, and the children are capably drawn. Mr. Sala's continuation of "Hogarth" is also excellent; still a little discursive; but pregnant with wit, observation, and reading. In his capacity of artist this gentleman has also made a most successful hit—the engraving of Hogarth when Mr. Gamble's apprentice is full of life and character. There is no mistaking the Italian hand of Mr. Ruskin in an article on "Sir Joshua and Holbein"—all his quaintness, all his cleverness, all his affectations are there to speak for themselves. Nor will it be difficult to trace the spirit and the execution of a paper having for its title "The National Gallery Difficulty Solved" to Mr. Henry Cole, C.B. Indeed, the cloaks which under the system of anonymity are supposed to conceal the writers are transparent enough. Who, for instance—in the second of "The Roundabout Papers, or Two Children in Black," very prettily and smartly written—could fail to detect the parentage of this anecdote?—

Once, in America, a clever and candid woman said to me at the close of a dinner, during which I had been sitting beside her, "Mr. Roundabout, I was told I shouldn't like you; and I don't." "Well, ma'am," says I, in a tone of the most unfeigned simplicity, "I don't care." And we became good friends immediately and esteemed each other ever after.

There are some pretty stanzas called "Mabel;" and the continuations of Mr. Trollope's novel and Mr. Lewes' science papers are, of course, good. The one blot in the number is a story called "A Winter Wedding Party in the Wilds," which is simply contemptible.

In *Macmillan's Magazine* the story of "Tom Brown at Oxford" is continued with infinite spirit. The description of the boat race may be named as an admirable example of graphic writing, full of life and vigour, breathing of sport in the truest sense of the word, and never degenerating into slang. Among the essays which constitute the remainder of the number may be specially noted one on "The Revivals of 1859," by the Rev. J. L. Davies, and one on "The Physiology of Laughter," by Herbert Spencer. There is a pretty story—"My Child-Passenger"—by Mr. R. Paton, and an enthusiastic defence of Lord Dundonald by Mr. Percy Greg.

Two numbers of the *Universal Review* call for notice, as I omitted to notice last month's issue. It is unquestionably the most generally interesting of the two. An article on Mr. Kingsley is written with great power and much appreciation of the peculiar mental organisation of the great muscular Christian; and in a review of Father Prout's collected works Mr. Hannay vindicates the glories of the "good old tap," the bould-speakers, punch-drinkers, and Horace-admirers in his usual style, and sneers at "cockney writers," "dull dogs," and men who don't argue and make long speeches "with a spoon in their hand and a classic author in their pockets" with his usual contempt. In the present number the pleasantest papers are on "Old Days in Hyde Park" and on "National Music." In both numbers Mr. J. C. Jeaffreson's story of "Sir Everard's Daughter" is ably continued.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE amateur performance of the Savage Club on Wednesday at the LYCEUM was a complete success. The house was crowded, and the Queen was present. The pieces performed were "The School for Scandal" and a burlesque on "The Forty Thieves." The comedy was very fairly performed, two of the characters—Moses, by Dr. Strauss, and Charles Surface, by Mr. Byron—being really clever bits of histrionic portraiture. Before the burlesque a sparkling prologue by Mr. Planche was delivered with judicious emphasis by Mr. L. Buckingham. The burlesque itself is crammed with sparkling jokes and puns of every order, and was capably acted by Messrs. Taltourd, Byron, Robert and W. Brough, and various nameless but well-known "supers." Mr. Albert Smith appeared as a traveller captured by the robbers, and sang his "Voyage of the *Beatrice*" amid great applause. The *Savages'* burlesque is so good that it will doubtless be again brought before the public.

New farces have been produced at the STRAND, PRINCESS', and St. JAMES'S Theatres, all with success, but none are worthy of special notice.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

ON Wednesday the volunteer service may be said to have attained its majority. It went through all the ceremonies which English usage prescribes for that critical state of existence. In the morning it made its obeisance to our gracious Sovereign, in the afternoon it dined together at St. James's Hall, and in the evening it gave a ball at the Floral Hall, Covent-garden.

THE LEVEE.

The Levee, as a spectacle for the people, was deprived of much of what would otherwise have been its public character by the unfavourable state of wind and weather, both of which were as wild and cold as is generally the case in England on all great occasions of public ceremonial and outdoor show. Thus, the park and the streets round St. James's, which on a levee day are tolerably well attended by the curious in such matters, were almost deserted, and even the most eager groups of sightseers gradually waned and disappeared before the nipping wind. Several corps of officers marched down to St. James's on foot. The majority, however, came in carriages, so that, on the whole, there was but a small amount of pageantry to reward the curiosity of those who braved the wind and sleety snow to the last.

The officers began to arrive at St. James's Palace at twelve o'clock, and were conducted to the drawing-room, Queen Anne's room, the guard chamber, banquet-room, and other apartments of the Palace, and were formed into companies. About two o'clock the Queen arrived, brilliantly attended. She wore a train of dahlia velvet, trimmed with point lace; the petticoat of white satin, trimmed with dahlia velvet; bows to correspond. The diadem was of opals and diamonds.

The officers of volunteers were joined in the drawing-room by the Lords Lieutenant of their counties, who accompanied them to the throne-room, and introduced them to the Queen. In the absence of the Lord Lieutenant, they were introduced by the Under-Secretary of State for the War Department.

THE DINNER.

The dinner took place in the St. James's Hall, and certainly no room could have been chosen better fitted for the peculiar character of the occasion. No necessities in the shape of gorgeous military decorations, national flags, and the like, were wanting to give effect to what would otherwise have been a sombre mass of invisible greens and dusky grays. "In the kingdom of the blind," says the French proverb, "the one-eyed man is king;" and the footmen of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, with their scarlet and gold liveries, were of the greatest value in an artistic point of view, and attracted, probably, more attention than has ever fallen to their lot before. Above 1000 volunteer officers sat down to dinner, and the side galleries were crowded with ladies and with officers who had not been sufficiently fortunate to obtain tickets for the dinner below. The Duke of

Cambridge was in the chair. Among the guests present were the Lord Chancellor, Earl Spencer, Lord Colville, Mr. Macdougall, Lieutenant-Colonel Hicks, Captain Midway, the Lord Provost, Hon. Captain Bruce, the Lord Mayor, Lord West, Viscount Valletort, the Earl of Dudley, Earl Cowper, Earl de Grey, Lord Elcho, Hon. Colonel Lindsay, Colonel McMurdo, Lieutenant-Colonel Loyd Lindsay, and General Tremenhare.

After the cloth was drawn, the Duke of Cambridge, in proposing "The health of the Queen" amid loud cheers, congratulated the officers present on the reception which they had received from her Majesty that day. Earl de Grey and Ripon proposed "The health of the Commander-in-Chief," and his Royal Highness, in returning thanks, said his chief object in taking the chair was to prove that the Army rejoiced as much as any other class in the country at the success of the volunteer movement. He knew of no better manner of proving that than by attending there in the red coat of a regular soldier. "The Navy" was next drunk with great enthusiasm, and Mr. de Carteret, the hon. secretary of the committee, returned thanks.

The Duke of Cambridge, in proposing the toast of the evening, "Success to the Volunteer Movement," said:—

I must congratulate you all upon the earnest desire which the meeting I see before me proves that this movement should be continuous. It is essentially necessary that to be of any use this movement should be continuous. There have been objections made to this movement on the ground that it is aggressive. I deny that altogether. I say it is a movement entirely of defence. In former times we reckoned it certain that, with our wooden walls to defend us, no enemy could come across the Channel from any quarter of the globe to attack us; but the scientific improvements of modern times—improvements which come upon us so rapidly that we scarcely know what the next day is going to bring forth—witness the Whitworth gun, for instance—lead us to the conviction that for our real comfort it is absolutely essential that a great empire like ours should always be in a position of perfect security; that we should be able to say to all the world, "Come if you dare!" Even those who are most opposed to this movement agree that, not to be afraid, we ought to be prepared; and that, gentlemen, is just what we wish to be, and just what we are. For my own part, I rejoice exceedingly at the proof which this movement affords that, when the occasion arises, there is not a man among us who will not come forward and do the best he can for the defence of his country. But it would be a great error to suppose that because I, the head of the Army, appear at a meeting of this kind, that the Army is in any way deficient for defensive purposes. Your function is not to take the place of the regular Army, but to assist it; and I feel sure that the very best supplement of the regular Army will be yourselves. There is the militia service, for which I have the greatest respect. I go down and inspect regiments of militia, and really, when I see the line and militia regiments together, I do not know one from the other. These I call the first reserve of the Army. The volunteer force, of which you are the officers, I trust will be the second reserve.

His Royal Highness then went on to advocate good, steady drill, as well as attention to shooting, and said he remarked with pleasure that the movement was taking root in our public schools.

THE BALL.

The time fixed for the opening of the ball was half-past nine; but, as some 1500 or 2000 visitors wished to take time by the forelock, it followed that none made any particularly rapid progress. Those who expected to be earliest in the field found, to their infinite dismay, that it was necessary to make a short trip in the direction of Brompton and Bayswater ere they could fall into the rank. It almost seemed, indeed, as if the carriages had been accumulating since early evening; and not a few even of the ladies grew impatient of their long exile in Pall-mall, and actually ventured forth from their carriages at that distance to walk to the Opera House.

There the general character of the arrangements stood as follows:—The ballroom proper was the Floral Hall itself; the supper-room, the basement or crypt of the hall; the refreshment-room, the stage of the Opera House; the retiring saloons and lounges, the Opera House itself.

The appearance of the Floral Hall, as decorated, fully carried out its picturesque title. It is a light and airy fabric, garlanded with flowers and lighted by diamond sparks. The delicate aerial turt and French white (the prevailing colour of the building) supplied an exquisite background to the roses selected for ornamentation. The light vaulted roof was profusely garlanded with these flowers, red and white. The sixteen graceful pillars that support it were each bound in the centre with three fillets of deep red roses. The arcades between them were adorned in like manner with floral devices; while the architraves and cornices, which are gilded, were made to stand out in contrast by a band of dark green leaves, in the centre of which—forming, as it were, the nucleus of the band—glowed a large red rose. From above these garlanded cornices and friezes, all around the hall, and upspringing in circles to the top of the great dome, was an architectural illumination of 3000 jets of gas, defining in brilliant light the outline of the building. Seven garlanded chandeliers of large dimensions hung suspended above. Three vast stars glittered at the farther end of the hall above and about the gallery erected for the musicians. Twelve gilded chandeliers, each of twenty-four burners (softened down to moonlight by cleverly-arranged glasses), hung between the pillars and illustrated the arcades garlanded with devices of flowers on each of the pilasters and pendulous baskets of flowers. A carpet of deep crimson covered the floor.

Such was the ballroom, out of which, on the right-hand side, two terraced staircases led, the one to the body of the Royal Italian Opera House, the other on to the stage. On the other side, at either end, were doors leading by descending staircases to the supper saloon in the basement of the building—a crypt, or vaulted hall, of very large dimensions—220 feet in length and more than 100 feet in width. The roof of this spacious apartment is supported by forty pillars in ten rows, round each of which was a broad gilded garland, from which sprang ten lights. The arched roof above was almost concealed by a closely-interwoven web of garlands of flowers, and along the whole length of its walls were tables laden with every delicacy that entered into the conception of the Messrs. Staples. There were the medieval board's head, and the ancient dish of peacocks, the standard ornament of the table, hung with French and English medallions of Imperial and Royal personages. There was an evident concord in the kitchens of both nations for this occasion—the mayonnaise of salmon, the aspic de Volaille, the salad aux legumes, the huitres en caisse, lay side by side with our old friends, the cold chickens, the solid hams, and the substantial sirloin. The stage was surrounded and built in with scenery, so arranged as to represent three sides of a great hall or reception-room in an Italian palace. Along each of these three sides were tables supplied with refreshments by Gunter.

At half-past nine the doors were opened, and by ten o'clock a perfect crowd had assembled in the hall, when the orchestra, consisting of fifty musicians, struck up the opening quadrille. The company at once responded with all the ease observed in a private ballroom, thus giving a most agreeable index of what the evening promised. Presently the lady patronesses began to enter the gallery set apart for them. Among the earliest arrivals were the Duchess of Wellington and the Duchess of Somerset, followed by the Duchess of Montrose, the Countess Craven, the Countess of Fife, the Countess Frances Waldegrave and Lady Saltoun, the Hon. Mrs. Sidney Herbert, and many other ladies of distinction. This gallery was a source of great attraction during the evening.

The hall now becoming more full, two lines of dancers were formed, and all went merrily—gossips reporting among the promenaders that the line of carriages outside the building even now extended to Hyde Park, which made those who had arrived earlier congratulate themselves upon their foresight. When the hall was well filled the coup d'œil was very striking.

After a few dances the earlier arrivals began to retire into the Opera House, on the stage of which refreshment-tables were arranged for the service of ices and other light refreshments. From these tables the company strolled into the body of the house, the boxes and stalls of which became gradually filled, presenting a scene of unusual animation and variety. Viewed from the boxes, the stage itself had all the semblance of a grand banquet scene.

The only drawback to the comfort of the evening was the delay and difficulty in entering and leaving the building, which were trying enough.

PRESENTATION TO THE EDITOR OF THE "SCOTSMAN."

We give an illustration of the testimonials presented to Mr. Russel by a large number of the leaders of the Liberal party of Edinburgh, together with a Portrait of the eminent editor himself.

The testimonials consist of an elegant and massive silver salver, a silver claret-jug, a timepiece in gold, chastely designed, a purse containing 1600 sovereigns, and an emblazoned roll of the subscribers, numbering about four hundred and fifty. Among these are many of the most celebrated men of the day, including among other illustrious names those of the Duke of Roxburgh, the late Earl of Minto, the Earl of Stair, the late Lord Macaulay, Lord Panmure, Sir W. Dunbar, Bart., M.P., Sir E. F. Davis, Bart., M.P., the Right Hon. E. Ellice, the Right Hon. E. P. Bouverie, M.P., the Lord Advocate, the Solicitor-General, &c., &c.

The object of the presentation is best explained by the inscription on the salver, which is as follows:—"Presented, with 1600 sovereigns, to Alexander Russel, editor of the *Scotsman*, in recognition of his able and consistent advocacy of enlightened political principles, to which he has largely contributed, and as a mark of respect for his honourable and independent conduct in public and private life: 1860."

The whole of the articles were supplied by Messrs. Mackay and Cunningham, of Princes-street, Edinburgh, to whom great praise is due.

Mr. Russel was born in Edinburgh, on the 10th of December, 1814, and was educated in his native city. His calling was originally intended to have been that of a printer, but as he approached manhood he changed his views, and, after contributing to *Tait's Magazine* and other periodicals of the day, he became in 1839 editor of the *Berwick Advertiser*. Having occupied that position for three years he next conducted the *Fife Herald*, which he continued to rule till 1844, when he started a Liberal paper in Kilmarnock. In the beginning of 1844, however, Mr. Russel became connected with the *Scotsman*, as assistant to Mr. Maclaren, the then editor of that journal. Mr. Maclaren, finding his place so well supplied, after a long and successful career as an editor, resigned, and Mr. Russel was chosen his successor. Besides his able conduct of the *Scotsman*, Mr. Russel has all along continued to contribute valuable articles to the *Edinburgh Review*, the *Quarterly Review*, the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, *Blackwood's Magazine*, and others.

The tribute which has been paid has been well earned, and has been bestowed with a hearty appreciation of the deserving qualities of Mr. Russel as an editor, a good Liberal, an able writer, and an honest man.



A. RUSSEL, ESQ., OF THE "SCOTSMAN."

Then we have the tower of the Cathedral at Antwerp, and a very peculiar "Doorway of Cathedral" at Berne, and the picturesque Maison de Bateliers at Ghent. Messrs. Bisson's views of the Cathedrals of Chartres, Bourges, Orleans, Moissac, and others less generally known to Englishmen than those of Paris and Rouen, are very interesting, and as fine specimens of photography as can be seen. In some the entire buildings are shown, and in others portions only are reproduced, in which the elaborate ornamentation, and even the marks of decay upon the stone, are given with wonderful fidelity.

No photographer of architecture working in France can avoid Rouen, which is perhaps richer than any other city in churches, cathedrals, and mediæval monuments of every kind, many of these monuments being not only vaguely mediæval but eminently historical. Messrs. Candall and Downes exhibit eight photographs, all of which have been taken in the ancient capital of Normandy. First, we have the Church of St. Ouen, which in antiquity, picturesqueness, and celebrity scarcely yields even to the cathedral. Of St. Ouen Messrs. Candall and Downes have executed four views—the west front, the porch of the south transept, a doorway, and a south-east view. Then we have a clear, delicate reproduction of the favourite Palais de Justice, an "Ancient Decorated House," and "The Palace of the Conqueror," the last-named subject being treated twice.

Messrs. Robertson and Beato send views of mosques, porches, foun-

of architectural photography, he is charged two shillings for every five, or part of five, beyond fifty.

SCENES ON BOARD THE "DIADEM."

When the steam-frigate *Diadem* was at Portsmouth, on the 31st of January last, the port watch was paid six months' wages (out of eight months due), and granted five days' leave of absence, which expired on the 5th of February. The 5th occurred on a Sunday, and only fourteen or fifteen out of (say) two hundred and fifty returned; nearly all the rest came back on Monday, the 6th, when the starboard watch was paid, and left for five days. Twenty-three among those who thus obtained leave are yet absent from the ship. Some days since the *Diadem* sailed with the squadron from Portland for Lisbon; but, having lost her bowsprit by getting in contact with the *Queen*, she put into Plymouth Sound. It seems that, in consequence of so many having broken leave at Portsmouth, a certain restriction was put on the liberty of the ship's company, which was granted only to petty officers having relatives at Plymouth, to those who returned regularly on the previous occasion, and to those who have what is termed "privileged" leave. But when the crew observed that the crews of other ships under repair at Plymouth obtained their liberty, they delegated their petty officers to make application for wages and leave by night, watch and watch.

Accordingly application was made, and the men allege that they obtained no distinct reply. At twelve they went down to dinner, and at a quarter-past one the boatswain and his mate piped up, as usual, "Hands fall in!" but not a man stirred. Those on the main-deck went quietly below, where it was all darkness, the scuttle-holes having been simultaneously filled with old bags, clothes, &c., and the lights extinguished. When the boatswain, his mates, the master-at-arms, or any other petty officer sung out to the crew to come along, the only response was a combined cheer, followed by grumbling, and demands for "Money and leave." The men were completely organised; no shots were rolled, and only one basin was broken by a youngster. This unfortunate condition of affairs having been reported to Captain Cockburn, the Marines (about seventy) were ordered under arms, and sentries were stationed over the hatchways. The boatswain then piped "Hands fall in on quarter-deck," a call which was promptly obeyed. The crew came up in an orderly manner and went aft, the petty officers in front. Captain Cockburn is reported to have rebuked them, and to have asked why they did not come to him if they had any complaints. They replied that they had already complained, without effect, to the First Lieutenant (Mr. Barton), and some in the rear said, "Money and leave!" "We want to be treated like men, and not like slaves." The Commander, on hearing these strong expressions, ordered those who uttered them to come in front, but no one appeared. Captain Cockburn then told the men that inquiry should be made as to the amount of wages due, on which they with some reluctance returned to their duty. The next day (Wednesday of last week) two months' wages out of the three months' due were paid to the well-conducted of one watch, and one month to the remainder, and they obtained leave for the night. The following day the other watch was paid and had their liberty. It is stated that Captain Cockburn was so well pleased with the conduct of the Marines that he requested Captain Jolliffe to remit all punishments then in progress.

SPANISH MULETEER.

PROBABLY there is not a more sober nation on the earth than the Spanish; and this sobriety is more striking amongst the lower orders or labouring population. Now that we are getting drinking-fountains erected in our streets, we may hope to see the drayman or porter slake his

ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION.

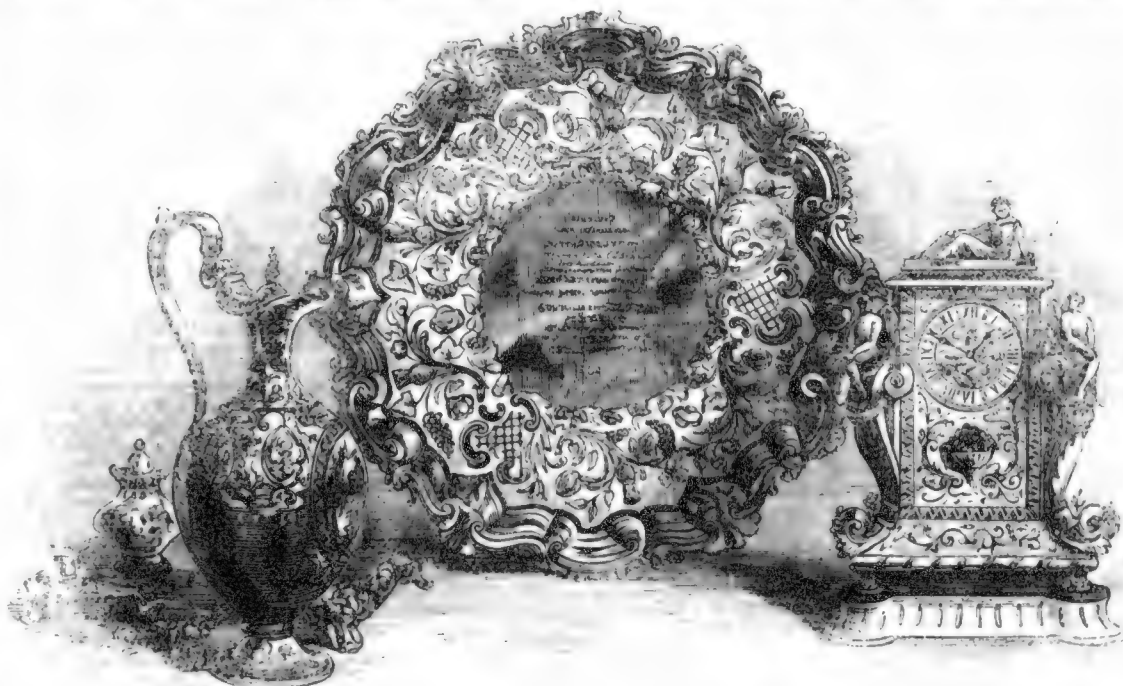
If we all had faces of stone (which a few of us may be said to have, as it is), and if, moreover, our visages were flat like those of the Mongolian races, photography would possess much more value as a portrait-painting agent than it can fairly claim under existing circumstances. If we look at any one of the numerous series of popular photographic portraits that have been issued we generally find the likenesses of the men good in proportion to the hardness of their features, while those of the women are almost invariably unsuccessful; indeed, to have a countenance remarkable for liveliness and variety of expression is to have one which defies the photographer's art altogether. But in the reproduction of objects without life photography is of invaluable service, and, above all, in the transfer of architectural designs, of which the chief beauty sometimes consists in the most varied and intricate ornaments, such as a painter or draughtsman would find it difficult, or even impossible, to render with precision. The prepared plate is exposed for a certain number of seconds, and a result is secured which, when the subject is a court in the Alhambra, or the "Fountain of Sultan Selim" at Constantinople, with its elaborate decoration and its mysterious Arabic writing, could in former years only have been attained by a careful, assiduous, and painful labour of some weeks. The association whose interesting exhibition suggests to us these remarks has fully understood the advantages to be derived from applying photography to the representation of architectural works; and at the gallery in Conduit-street there are now collected upwards of five hundred photographs of celebrated buildings, or portions of buildings, in nearly every country in Europe. The student or simple sight-seer, while standing in the neighbourhood of Regent-street, may hold the theatres and temples of ancient Rome, the palaces of modern Italy, the mosques and minarets of Turkey, the picturesque baronial halls of England, and the cathedrals of all mediæval Europe.

The exhibitor of the first designs numbered in the catalogue is M. Baldus, of Paris, who contributes eight views of the Louvre, including the gallery of Henry II., the celebrated Colonnade, a portion of the picture-gallery, the Pavillon de l'horloge, &c. One of the most important subjects executed by M. Baldus is "The Roman Theatre" at Arles, of which two Corinthian columns, forming the proscenium, alone remain, though some idea may be formed of the shape and magnitude of the building from the position of the ruins.

No. 2, by the same photographer, is a view of the celebrated Church of St. Trophime at Arles. No. 3 shows us the "Pope's Palace at Avignon," now irreverently converted into a barrack. In No. 6 we find the Roman Amphitheatre at Nîmes, which is in a much better state of preservation than the one at Avignon. What a theatre for Mr. E. T. Smith to have filled "at playhouse prices"! It held twenty thousand persons!

M. Baldus's other contributions are the Church of the Invalides, the Tower of St. Jacques la Boucherie, the Ecole des Beaux Arts, the Hôtel Cluny, &c., in Paris, and the Palais de Justice at Rouen.

Messrs. Bisson (also of Paris) have in several cases treated the same subject as M. Baldus. Thus the Church of St. Trophime at Arles (in which the projecting porch is particularly remarkable), the Palais de Justice at Rouen, and the Tower of St. Jacques la Boucherie have attracted both those photographers. Messrs. Bisson have devoted much attention to the cathedrals of France, and have produced a correct portrait of the clock at Strasbourg, besides executing numerous views of buildings in the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland.



TESTIMONIAL PRESENTED TO A. RUSSEL, ESQ.

tains, and streets in Constantinople. The fountains of Sultan Selim and Mahmoud are in themselves beautiful objects, delicately and elaborately ornamented, and as such serving to show with what marvellous minuteness photography can represent the finest details. In another view of either the Sultan Selim or Sultan Mahmoud Fountain we see in the distance the Imperial Gate of the Seraglio. The mosques photographed are those of "The Conqueror Sultan Mohammed" and of the "Sulimanic."

In Messrs. Robertson and Beato's views of "Jerusalem and the Neighbourhood" we find the Village of Bethany, the Convent of the Nativity at Bethlehem, the Mount of Olives, the Church of St. Anne (which is supposed to mark the birthplace of the Virgin Mary), the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a portion of the old walls of the Walling-place of the Jews, part of the Walls and Garden of Gethsemane, and, in the midst of these sacred scenes, the Mosques of El Akas and of Omer, which, with its dark shadows and its massive funereal cypresses, forms a very effective picture.

Mr. Macpherson sends a number of interesting views of ancient and modern Rome, among which we may mention the Theatre of Marcellus, the Forum of Trajan, the Coliseum, &c.

thirst with the beverage supplied by Nature. At present much stronger cordials are popular. Not so with a corresponding class of men in Spain. Their greatest luxury is that of the muleteer shown in our Engraving—to imbibe a draught of pure water from the spout of a cool earthenware jug.

PRESENTATION OF THE FREEDOM OF CITY TO THE EARL OF ELGIN.

THE Court of Common Council having resolved, on the 10th of June last, that the freedom of the City, in a gold box, value 100 guineas, should be presented to the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.T., for the services rendered by him to commerce in Canada, China, and Japan, Friday week was appointed for the ceremony; and a special Court was held for that purpose, the Council Chamber being handsomely fitted up for the occasion, and a large number of fashionably-attired ladies, besides numerous gentlemen of position in the City, being present, in addition to its usual occupants.

The gold box intended for presentation was placed on a table beneath a glass shade, and attracted universal notice from the beauty of its design and brilliancy of its execution. It is made of 18-carat gold, covered with bouquets of flowers and foliage, intermixed with elaborate piercings, and surmounted by three figures—viz., that of Britannia in the centre, with a Chinese upon her right and a Japanese upon her left hand, in national costume.

The Common Councilmen, who occupied the body of the Council Chamber, wore their violet gowns, as is usual on State occasions, and the Aldermen their scarlet gowns. The great officers of the Corporation also wore their State robes, and sat at a crimson-draped table in the centre of the chamber; while the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and their more illustrious visitors, were seated on a crimson-covered dais at the upper end. The visitors included the Countess of Elgin, Lady E. Bruce, Lady Mary N. Hamilton, Miss N. Hamilton, Lady Lucy and Miss Grant, Lady Jane Dundas, Hon. Mrs. Grey, Lord Bruce, and the Hon. Robert Bruce.

The Earl of Elgin, on his arrival, was introduced by Mr. Deputy Harrison as the seconder (Mr. Alderman Cubitt, its mover, being absent) of the following motion, which was read by the Town Clerk—viz., "That the freedom of this city, in a gold box, of the value of 100 guineas, be presented to the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.T., in testimony of the high sense entertained of the important services rendered by his Lordship to this country and its commerce in Canada, China, and Japan."

Lord Elgin was then presented as a member of the Merchant Taylors' Company, and, having subscribed the usual declaration, was addressed by the Chamberlain (Mr. B. Scott) in a highly complimentary speech, in which the worthy gentleman traced his Lordship's career, from the time when he became Governor of Jamaica to the period of his Ambassadorship in China.

Lord Elgin, in reply, said it was altogether out of his power to express what he felt, for he had always considered the favour and approbation of the authorities and Corporation of the city of London to be one of the greatest rewards to which a public man could aspire.

"I need hardly say, then," continued his Lordship, "that I receive this beautiful casket, with the document which it contains, as one of the most precious memorials of my public life. Pleased as I feel, I am bound to state that my feeling of gratitude is not without alloy, and that one portion of my public services which has been referred to, owing to the circumstances of the present time, contrasts unfavourably with the circumstances of the time when the vote of the Corporation was taken, of which this ceremonial is the result. I cannot but feel that the freedom of the city of London was voted to me not alone because I was Governor of Canada and of Jamaica at important periods, but that my subsequent career is embraced in the vote. In Canada I was principally engaged in establishing that principle of colonial self-government—in trying an experiment, the success of which has, I am bold to say, set at rest all perplexing doubts connected with the self-government of colonies, and which has bound the colonies to the mother country by ties far stronger and more durable than any that could be created by the rule of coercion. I shall always look back with pleasure and gratification to that part of my public career connected with Canada—a career in which I devoted my energies to the establishment of a wide franchise, the promotion of education, the extension of trade and commerce, and the creation in that colony of a fitting home for freeborn Englishmen. And I brought to bear upon that work, whatever might be my other merits, at least this one qualification—a profound belief in the loyalty and capacity for self-government which characterises the people of our country in all parts of the world. But I know that the freedom of this city is not conferred upon me only because I occupied that important position at an important period in the history of Canada, not only because of the part which I took in the con-

clusion of the treaty of Washington, to which the City Chamberlain has referred; but I may remind you that when I went to Washington a British Admiral and an American Commodore were sailing on the coasts

"I beg to send you the following account of a strange sea monster captured on these shores, the animal being, in fact, no less than the great sea serpent which was described as having been seen by Captain M'Quhae of her Majesty's ship *Dadalus* a few years since. Two gentlemen named Trimmingham were walking along the shore of Hungary Bay, in Hamilton Island, on Sunday last, about eleven o'clock, when they were attracted by a loud rushing noise in the water, and, on reaching the spot, they found a huge sea monster, which had thrown itself on the low rocks, and was dying from exhaustion in its efforts to regain the water. They attacked it with large forks which were lying near at hand for gathering in seaweed, and unfortunately mauled it much, but secured it. This reptile was sixteen feet seven inches in length, tapering from head to tail like a snake, the body being a flattish oval shape, the greatest depth at about a third of its length from the head being eleven inches. The colour was bright and silvery; the skin destitute of scales, but rough and warty; the head in shape is not unlike that of a bulldog, but it is destitute of teeth; the eyes were large, flat, and extremely brilliant; it had small pectoral fins and minute ventral fins, and large gills. There were a series of fins running along the back, composed of short, slender rays, united by a transparent membrane, at the interval of something less than an inch from each other. The creature had no bone, but a cartilage running through the body. Across the body at certain intervals were bands, where the skin was of a more flexible nature, evidently intended for the creature's locomotion, screwlike, through the water. But its most remarkable feature was a series of eight long thin spines of a bright red colour springing from the top of the head and following each other at an interval of about one inch, the longest was in the centre, it is now in the possession of Colonel Munro, the acting Governor of the colony; and I had the opportunity of examining it very closely. It is two feet seven inches long, about three-eighths of an inch in circumference at the base, and gradually tapering, but



SPANISH MULETEER.

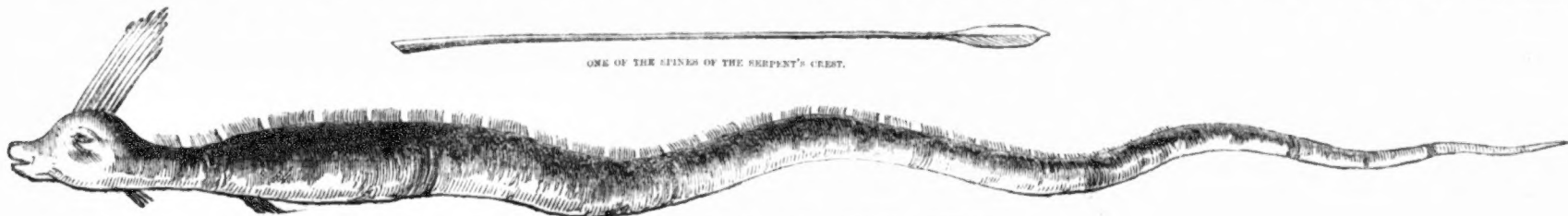


CASKET PRESENTED TO LORD ELGIN WITH THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY.

with instructions founded upon opposite conclusions, and that a single indiscreet act upon the part of one or the other of those two naval officers might have brought on a conflict which would have involved us in all the horrors of war. With regard to the treaty of Washington, there has been

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ONE OF THE SINES OF THE SERPENT'S CREST.



SEA SERPENT CAPTURED AT ST. GEORGE'S, BERMUDA.

a deal of talk lately about reciprocity treaties, and I may say that if all such treaties work as satisfactorily as that between Great Britain and the United States I think we shall not have much reason to complain of them. I happened to meet Mr. Buchanan about two years after the conclusion of that treaty walking in Hyde Park, and I said to him, 'I hear, Mr. Buchanan, by the reports of the Chamber of Commerce at New York, that the trade under the treaty has trebled.' He said, 'Oh, that is not what I hear; I hear it has quintupled;' so that that treaty has not acted prejudicially, at all events. But it is not for this only that you have conferred on me the freedom of the City, nor merely because I concluded a treaty for opening the commerce with the kingdom of Japan; but it was, I know, because it was hoped and believed that the treaty which I had entered into with the authorities of the Chinese empire would be the forerunner of a peaceful and prosperous trade with that empire of 400,000,000 people. Gentlemen, I do not yet abandon that hope. On the contrary, I have a firm conviction that it will be fulfilled at no distant period. But I cannot deny that a great calamity has happened to frustrate it for the present; although even that calamity was marked by circumstances which rank it among the great deeds of heroism. But, while I express my conviction that by this calamity and its attendant consequences the fulfilment of our hope is but deferred, I confess that the impression which that calamity and its consequences produced on me was so painful that when I was honoured with an invitation from the Lord Mayor to attend on this occasion my first impulse was to request that the ceremony might be deferred until the treaty of Tien-Tsin had been ratified; but, upon second thoughts—and from the way in which you have received me I think my second thoughts were best—I thought that it would be both more manly in myself and more respectful to this Court to come forward at once, cast myself on your kindness, and find in your generous forbearance an encouragement to more successful efforts in time to come. This is the spirit in which I present myself to-day to be the recipient of your bounty, and I accept the honour you have conferred upon me with the determination and a hope that for the time to come, wherever I may be, and under whatever circumstances I may be placed, my conduct may give you the assurance that I am not unworthy of it."

It was then ordered that the address of the Chamberlain and the reply of the noble Earl should be entered upon the journals of the Court; and the Earl, after shaking hands with the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and many of the Commoners, withdrew.

SEA SERPENT.

LAST week we printed a paragraph from a Bermudan journal describing a sea serpent captured on that island. We have since received a letter from a gentleman resident in St. George's, Bermuda, which confirms the story. Our authority is Captain Hawtaigne, of the 39th Regiment. He says:—

"I beg to send you the following account of a strange sea monster captured on these shores, the animal being, in fact, no less than the great sea serpent which was described as having been seen by Captain M'Quhae of her Majesty's ship *Dadalus* a few years since. Two gentlemen named Trimmingham were walking along the shore of Hungary Bay, in Hamilton Island, on Sunday last, about eleven o'clock, when they were attracted by a loud rushing noise in the water, and, on reaching the spot, they found a huge sea monster, which had thrown itself on the low rocks, and was dying from exhaustion in its efforts to regain the water. They attacked it with large forks which were lying near at hand for gathering in seaweed, and unfortunately mauled it much, but secured it. This reptile was sixteen feet seven inches in length, tapering from head to tail like a snake, the body being a flattish oval shape, the greatest depth at about a third of its length from the head being eleven inches. The colour was bright and silvery; the skin destitute of scales, but rough and warty; the head in shape is not unlike that of a bulldog, but it is destitute of teeth; the eyes were large, flat, and extremely brilliant; it had small pectoral fins and minute ventral fins, and large gills. There were a series of fins running along the back, composed of short, slender rays, united by a transparent membrane, at the interval of something less than an inch from each other. The creature had no bone, but a cartilage running through the body. Across the body at certain intervals were bands, where the skin was of a more flexible nature, evidently intended for the creature's locomotion, screwlike, through the water. But its most remarkable feature was a series of eight long thin spines of a bright red colour springing from the top of the head and following each other at an interval of about one inch, the longest was in the centre, the longest was in the centre, it is now in the possession of Colonel Munro, the acting Governor of the colony; and I had the opportunity of examining it very closely. It is two feet seven inches long, about three-eighths of an inch in circumference at the base, and gradually tapering, but

flattened at the extreme end, like the blade of an oar. The shell of these spines is hard, and, on examination by a powerful glass, appeared to be double, some red colouring matter being between the shells; the outside, which to the touch and natural eye was smooth, being rough and much similar to the small claws or feelers of the lobster or crayfish. The centre was a white pith, like an ordinary quill. The three foremost of these spines were connected for about half their length by a greasy filament; the rest being unconnected, the serpent had the power of elevating or depressing this crest at pleasure.

The serpent was carefully examined by several medical and scientific gentlemen; the head, dorsal spine, and greater part of the crest are in the possession of J. M. Jones, Esq., an eminent naturalist, who will, doubtless, send home a more learned description of this "wonder of the deep." I regret that the immediate departure of the mail for England prevents my preparing you any more careful drawing of this "great sea serpent" than that I enclose.

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

THE success of "Lurline" at the Royal English Opera is most complete, and Mr. Wallace's admirable work will be performed every night until the close of the season, about the 15th of the present month. It is now finally announced that Mr. E. T. Smith has taken Her Majesty's Theatre, and that he will shortly open it with a company composed "of the first Italian artists in Europe." We think the musical public—without excepting the subscribers to the Royal Italian Opera—may congratulate itself upon this, for it is now quite evident that, as long as there is only one operatic establishment open in London during the season, there will be no operative performances of the highest merit. We have been told, it is true, that many years ago, in the days of Mr. Laporte, and even in the early days of Mr. Lumley, the management of the only Italian Opera then existing in London neither mutilated the works represented, nor neglected its orchestra, nor engaged singers who had nearly lost their voices and were beginning to lose their reputations. But during the last fifteen or sixteen years all that has been changed. First, Mr. Lumley lowered the character of her Majesty's Theatre by sacrificing the opera to ballet—cutting down the former entertainment that he might give the latter at extreme length; but still the orchestra was admirable, while the principal singers were the same, only better by nearly twenty years, than those who took the principal parts in grand operas last season at Covent Garden. Grisi, Mario, Tamburini, and Lablache—the celebrated quartet who played together in so many admirable works by Rossini, and for whom Donizetti composed his "Don Pasquale"—all "went over" to the Royal Italian Opera; and it is not Mr. Gye's fault if two of the four are now dead, and, consequently, unable to accept engagements at the Royal Italian Opera. The other two he has hitherto engaged, as a matter of course, every year; and in securing Mario he is quite right, for, in spite of a few physical defects, the inevitable result of time—in spite, too, of the even-voiced and constantly improving Giuglini, and of the loud-voiced Mongini, who may improve—he still remains the greatest tenor of the day. The Spaniards, a few months since, claimed the privilege accorded by the Archbishop of Granada to his secretary, and hinted to Madame Grisi rather strongly, indeed quite in the Hibernian fashion, that she was getting old. This powerful hint was echoed in London, and it is understood now that, in accordance with the particular request of numerous subscribers, the management of the Royal Italian Opera will engage Madame Grisi for one season more, but not on any account for two. Mr. Gye will then have remaining to him from among the members of the old Italian Opera only Mario, Ronconi—the incomparable representative of Iago, Chevreuse, and all parts which require the highest histrionic genius—and De Bassini, who, if want of voice be still a recommendation at Covent Garden, is sure of a re-engagement.

As the singers of fifteen and twenty years since were better than those of the present day, so was the old Italian Opera better than the Covent-garden Opera of late years—having, it must be remembered, the same conductor and an orchestra similarly composed and of similar excellence. But affairs assumed a very different aspect when Mr. Lumley's orchestra left him *en masse*, together with nearly all the principal vocalists of the company. The Royal Italian Opera was founded professedly "with a view to a more perfect representation of the lyric drama than had yet been attained in this country;" and certainly a number of grand operas—such as "Semiramis," "William Tell," "Masaniello," and Meyerbeer's three great works—were performed at the new Covent-garden Theatre with a completeness and magnificence till then unknown in England. Moreover, the management had been lucky enough to engage a contralto who, on the first night of the new speculation, surprised every one by the beauty of her voice and the perfection of her style. Made-moiselle Alboni, as soon as it was proved beyond doubt that she was the finest contralto singer in Europe, left the Royal Italian Opera, and was never re-engaged there; and during its existence of fourteen years this establishment only succeeded in finding two other artists of the highest ability—the lamented Madame Bosio and Signor Tamberlik, who, notwithstanding his tremulousness of voice, is undeniably a great dramatic singer. Madame Bosio has been replaced (if we may be allowed to use such a word in such a case) by Madame Penco, assisted by Madame Lotti, who also last season undertook some of the Grisi parts; and, when Madame Grisi herself goes, there will be no one at Covent Garden who can either sing or act in "Norma," "Lucrezia," and other parts of the Italian school of opera. We suppose there are other singers to be found (Giuglini, Titens, and only last season Guarducci were discovered, when it was supposed by many persons that it was impossible to find any new singers of a high class), but we are quite sure that Mr. Gye will not look for them less eagerly because he knows that her Majesty's theatre is to be opened this summer.

While the reopening of the ancient Italian Opera House will probably have a beneficial effect on the Royal Italian Opera in an artistic, if not in a commercial, point of view, Mr. Smith's enterprise has itself a fair chance of success. Even now a considerable amount of prestige is attached to Her Majesty's Theatre. The "house," as regards the decorations and general plan, is the most beautiful in London; and the smallness of the stage, which is sometimes mentioned as an objection, is only a disadvantage in connection with the representation of spectacular pieces. Even then, as the beauty of a picture does not depend on the size of the frame, we do not see why, in spite of the narrowness of the stage, operas should not be mounted at Her Majesty's Theatre as well as at any theatre in the world. Of course Mr. Smith's company has not yet been formed, but it is said that Madlle. Titens and Signor Giuglini will certainly be engaged.

The first concert of the Musical Society of London was a great success, though, owing to the inevitable absence of numerous members of the orchestra engaged at the Royal English Opera, neither the symphony (Spohr's "Power of Sound") nor the overtures (Sterndale Bennett's "Wood Nymphs" and Rossini's "Siege of Corinth") produced the effect that might have been expected had the orchestra been complete. During the Italian season at Covent Garden the four concerts of the Musical Society which are yet to be given will take place on "off nights," so that Mr. Costa's orchestral arrangements will not interfere with those of Mr. Mellon.

Dinorah, for Voice and Pianoforte. Bossey and Sons.

Meyerbeer's masterly, and at the same time eminently popular, opera of "Dinorah" is being further "popularised" by the issue of cheap editions of the work. We have already called attention to the pianoforte score, and we have now before us the first of eight shilling parts, in which a complete version of the opera for voice and pianoforte is being published, with English and Italian words. The first monthly number, beautifully printed, contains the overture and the opening chorus of villagers, "L'azzurro del ciel;" and we may mention that the overture is not simply arranged for the pianoforte, but that the voice parts of the "Santa Maria" chorus, introduced with so much effect from behind the scenes, are also given. In short, the opera is being reproduced in

its integrity, and, when the work is completed, it will be the most convenient edition of "Dinorah" yet published, and the cheapest musical publication ever known.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

LOSS OF THE "HUNGARIAN" MAIL-STEAMER AND 120 LIVES.

ANOTHER dreadful shipwreck has just been added to the long list of catastrophes of a similar kind with which the English public have been appalled during the last few months. The *Hungarian*, one of the great Canadian steam-ships, is this time the ill-fated vessel. She struck near Cape Sable, on the coast of Nova Scotia, on the morning of the 19th ult., and all on board perished. The information respecting the lamentable occurrence is as yet very scanty—little more than that she left Liverpool for Portland on the 8th of February with about thirty-five passengers and a crew of eighty individuals; that her lights were seen off Cape Sable at four o'clock on the morning of the 19th; and that about daybreak they disappeared. At the time when the news of this disaster was dispatched the vessel, an utter wreck, lay in about twelve feet of water at low tide, but communication with her was impossible, owing to a heavy sea. Six mail-bags had floated ashore; and the body of a man and of a young child had been picked up.

The steamer the wreck of which on the Welsh coast we announced last week was the *Nimrod*, of Cork. It appears that after leaving Liverpool on Saturday week the weather was so dreadful that she took shelter for the night in Beaumaris Bay. Next morning she was seen steaming out of Beaumaris Bay by the captain and crew of the Cork Steam-ship Company's vessel *Falcon*. Nothing more is known concerning the *Nimrod* until she was overtaken off the Smalls, about ten o'clock on Monday night, by the steam-ship *City of Paris*, bound from Milford to Waterford. The *City of Paris*, observing that the machinery of the *Nimrod* had broken down, hove to, and offered to tow her into a port of safety. It is reported that Captain Lyall, of the *Nimrod*, wished to have his vessel towed into Milford, as her engines were completely useless, for which he offered £100, but that some disagreement arose, and the ships parted. According to one story, the captain of the *City of Paris* wanted £1000 salvage. Ten hours after the ships parted the *Nimrod* was a total wreck, and all on board perished. An official inquiry is to be made.

The British steamer *Pomona* left Malta on the 22nd ult. with seven passengers and a cargo of tallow, wool, silk, &c., from Odessa and Constantinople for London. All went well till midnight, when the wind and sea increased to such an extent as to cause much labouring to the vessel. Finding that he could make no progress, and the steamer making much water, the captain wore ship in order to put back to Malta. When about five miles off the Gozo light the water in the hold increased to an alarming extent, in spite of all efforts to prevent it. It was consequently determined to take to the boats, and the captain placed eighteen persons, including five passengers, two of whom were ladies, in one of the boats. Shortly afterwards the steamer foundered, carrying down with her the captain and those of the crew who were still on board, nineteen in number. A few hours later the boat was fallen in with by the Austrian brig *Teresa Caterina*, which succeeded in saving the two ladies and fourteen of those in the boat, two lives being lost in getting on board the brig.

A Gravesend smack, the *Fortitude*, with a crew of nine men, was lost last week on her way to the Doggerbank: all drowned.

FEARFUL COLLIERY ACCIDENT.

A TERRIBLE explosion, bringing death to eighty men and boys, occurred on the afternoon of Friday week at Burradon Colliery, six miles to the north-east of Newcastle. It appears that at half-past eight o'clock in the morning about 100 men and boys went down the pit on the day-shift. At half-past two o'clock, according to the statement of two brothers, named Robert and George Allen, the pit fired in their immediate vicinity. The first explosion must have been of a not very serious character, as the boys were enabled to take to their heels and run out of danger. After they had got about three-quarters of a mile the pit exploded a second time, but they managed to escape to the bottom of the shaft, and were saved. The alarm having now been given, about seventeen other men and boys, who were working in two flats or stations at some distance from the spot on which the pit fired, ran also to the bottom of the shaft, and were ultimately brought to bank safe. The eighty or more men remaining in the pit must have been all killed.

Immediately after the terrible news became known, Mr. William Kirkley, fore overman, descended the pit, and he was quickly followed by numerous assistants. Some little obstruction was experienced at first by the fallen brattice, but this having been cleared away the persons who descended were enabled to penetrate into the pit. Then commenced the melancholy task of collecting the dead bodies for the purpose of bringing them to the bank. Those that were near the bottom of the shaft were soon gathered together; they were then enveloped in a blanket, put into the cage, and conveyed to the world above, which they had left in the full enjoyment of health but a few hours previously. Two men accompanied each body as it was brought to bank, and the name of the dead, when it had been ascertained, was announced to the crowd in a low tone, and it was then conveyed from man to man of the many hundreds who stood for hours almost silent spectators of the ghastly proceedings.

The causes of the accident have not been discovered, but it seems that a small quantity of gas in one of the workings exploded at first, and that the ignited gas formed a stream along the top of the cavernous passages, and became connected with a larger volume of explosive vapour in one of the large chambers formed in the mine by the removal of the "broken" coal.

The shock was felt at the down-cast shaft, and a little boy who had noticed it ran and alarmed the residents in the neighbouring cottages. The deputies and overmen who were not down in the pit forthwith commenced making efforts to rescue those who were known to be in the pit. They met some of the men escaping from the "cross-cut," or long air-way; but, persevering so far as the "after-damp" and sulphurous vapour would permit, penetrated nearly to the plane at the top of the incline. To do this they had to take in with them "brattice" or thin planks of wood, to stop up certain openings, and so to force the current of fresh air from the pit shaft to accompany them. In all directions were found broken lamps, fragments of clothing, parts of boots and shoes, indicative of the terrific force of the explosion.

During the whole of Saturday night parties of viewers and miners pursued their labours in search of the bodies of the unfortunate men; and by Sunday morning about fifty had been recovered. The joiners in the neighbourhood and those belonging to the pit were engaged all Friday night and Saturday in making coffins, a large pile of which were lying on the pit bank on Saturday. Two bodies were interred on Sunday. The bodies of the other sufferers—those who were by that time recovered—were buried on Monday. The village had a woful appearance on Sunday, as large crowds flocked into it from the neighbouring towns and villages. The docks of the cottages where the dead were laid were mostly open; the cottages were scrupulously clean, the beds being hung with white linen, and the coffins also. Every home in which the dead was laid told its own tale of sorrow. An inquest has been held, the verdict being that there was no evidence to show how the accident originated.

BELOIUM AND THE COMMERCIAL TREATY.—The Belgian Government is busy in collecting materials, by means of questions addressed to the Chambers of Commerce in the country, to enable them to form a judgment as to what changes in the commercial relations between France and Belgium are to be anticipated from the execution of the Anglo-French treaty, and what reforms of the Belgian as well as the French tariff are called for to meet the case. Its evident object is to propose the embodiment of these reforms in a treaty between France and Belgium.

THE "GREAT EASTERN."—An important meeting of the Great Ship Company was held on Tuesday. A motion to increase the capital of the Company by £100,000 was moved by Mr. Baker, who entered at some length into the question of the condition of the great ship and the prospects of the company. After an interesting discussion the motion was adopted.

LAW AND CRIME.

It is commonly supposed to be rather a fashionable thing to be as ignorant as possible on the first floor of all that occurs in the basement of one's private residence. The kitchen and servants'-hall are supposed to be inhabited by certain persons of the lower orders, whose only business in life is to appear when called, to obey orders, and to protect the master of the house from domestic annoyances. The girls who may happen to be servants in a fashionable establishment are far less looked after as to the morality of their conduct than the barmaid of a tavern. The results are too well known, and have lately been shown by parochial statistics, demonstrating most painfully that no class is more exposed to temptation and less protected against its consequences than the poor handmaiden who lives under the roof of an English gentleman. And whenever this fact obtrudes itself upon the public mind a cry is raised against the servants. The fault lies in the absence of proper domestic relations between employers and employed. English society was never so exclusive and intolerant towards inferiors as at the present day, when even the lower middle class affects, to the utmost limit of its means, the domestic manners of the aristocracy. Two servant girls were lately left, day after day, in sole charge of a gentleman's house. As might have been expected, they sought for and obtained company. Two thieves, on the look-out for this very opportunity, introduced themselves, were invited to tea, and plundered the plate-chest as a natural sequence. One of them has been caught and sentenced to three years' penal servitude. The other is still at large, to pursue his career among what the learned Assistant Judge took occasion to term "a parcel of servants, left in charge of their master's property." To our thinking it is a parcel of masters leaving young women unprotected, in a position little else than imprisonment, and expecting them voluntarily to endure the solitary system into the bargain, who are really to blame in all such transactions.

The sporting world has been exhibiting its shadowed side this week, as usual. One Tom Paddock, a pugilist, had a difference with another pugilist, named Parry, at a public-house kept by a third member of the ring, respecting some money alleged to have been abstracted from the pocket of Paddock by Parry, while both were in the parlour or taproom of a fourth. Parry stabbed Paddock over the eye with a claspknife, was thrown down by him, and stabbed him again through the under lip. Parry has undergone an examination before a magistrate for cutting and wounding, and Mr. Paddock awaits the probable advent of erysipelas to determine the result of his wounds and the ultimate character of the charge against Parry.

A servant girl sued her mistress in the County Court at Liverpool for £1, amount of wages payable in lieu of notice, on an instant dismissal without due cause. The girl, on going out one Sunday evening, put on her best bonnet, in which were artificial flowers. The mistress told the girl that if she went out in that bonnet she need not return, and the girl wore the bonnet and did not return. The mistress proved that on hiring the servant a stipulation was made that the girl should not wear artificial flowers; and the Judge of the County Court gave judgment for the defendant. The old legal maxim, "Lex neminem cogit ad vana seu impossibilia"—the law compels no one to perform silly or impossible conditions—does not seem to have been regarded by the learned Judge in this instance.

A curious conflict of jurisdiction has taken place between the Courts of Chancery and Insolvency. A Mr. Dyson became insolvent, and, having the expectation of certain property, assigned his right thereto, after payment of the creditors in his schedule, to a third person, a Mr. Cook. Before Mr. Cook could receive the balance from the Insolvent Court, Mr. Dyson again became insolvent, the money was then in the hands of the official assignee, and Mr. Commissioner Law directed it to be paid to the creditors under the second insolvency. Cook filed a bill in Chancery against the official assignee, who was ordered to pay the amount into that court. As the money was already in the Insolvent Court, the official assignee, considering himself responsible only to the Commissioner of his own court, declined to make the required transfer. Thereupon a motion was made before the Lord Chancellor to commit Mr. Commissioner Law for contempt of Court. It was, however, arranged that the Insolvent Court should abstain from dealing with the money until the Court of Chancery should have disposed of a motion, to be made next Saturday, to set aside the Chancery prohibition against the distribution of the amount as creditors' assets under the second insolvency.

A case tried before Mr. Baron Martin last week at Winchester presented the ordinary features of a poaching affray, but it was shown that the gamekeepers had taken out with them a dog muzzled, and also handcuffs. The dog was shot, and one of the keepers beaten over the head and nearly killed. The Judge said that the taking out of the dog and the provision of handcuffs were both utterly illegal. No person had a right to take out dogs for the purpose of running down other people. He hoped that persons would see the necessity of avoiding all illegal acts while carrying out the laws for the preservation of game. The prisoner who had beaten the keeper was, nevertheless, sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment, and his companion to six months, both with hard labour.

One of the most detestable and indefensible traditional abominations of the law of imprisonment for debt still exists, and requires only to be pointed out to be swept away. We allude to the institution known as the "spunging-house." A Sheriff, commanded by the Queen's writ to take and keep in safe custody a certain debtor, offers to the defendant the option of residing in a certain fortified house upon exorbitant terms, instead of going to the prison provided by the county. The result is that debtors, to avoid the contamination and disgrace of a gaol, are forced to submit to the most rapacious extortion perpetrated by the officers of the Sheriff, who thus uses his office, through his agents and servants, as a means of dragging money from the pockets of people whose only cause of imprisonment is their unwillingness or inability to pay their creditors. It is true the Sheriff does not get a penny of the profits thus acquired, but his officers do. It is idle to talk of the transaction as a voluntary act on the part of the captured debtor, for, being under duress, any transaction whatever between him and his gaoler involving payment on the one hand, and on the other, deviation from the strict course of law is, and must be, illegal. If some spunging-house victim would only retain the courage and the means to proceed against the Sheriff for illegally extorting moneys under colour of his office the matter would, we are persuaded, be regarded by her Majesty's Judges in a light which would somewhat astound the innocent Sheriffs and the Hebrew harpies whose parlour windows bear iron bars instead of blinds. The following passage which appears to bear upon this subject is taken from a work by the late lamented Judge Talfourd ("Dickenson's Guide to Quarter Sessions." By Serjeant Talfourd. 1846. p. 432):—"The Statute of Westminster the first (3 Ed. I., 26), which is in confirmation of the law declares and enacts that it shall be extortion for any Sheriff or other officer of the King to take any reward, except what he receives of the King; and this statute, in addition to the common-law penalties, provides that the party offending shall yield twice as much as he has taken." The victim has a remedy both by action and criminal indictment. As the spunging-house is invariably kept and the extortions alluded to committed by an officer of the Sheriff, as such it is clear that the law is opposed to this most antique institution. If, on the other hand, it be desirable that debtors should have a fair opportunity of settling with the creditor before absolute incarceration, let the law itself provide the means. The present system, we repeat, is entirely indefensible, and is certainly doomed to abolition at no distant period.

A batch of summonses has been granted against the Rector of St. George's-in-the-East and certain of his friends for assaults committed upon members of the congregation. It appears that the prosecutors had obtained possession of the seats appropriated by the Rector to vocalists engaged by him to sing in fancy dresses during Divine service. The Rector ordered out the intruders, and on their refusing to leave is said to have dragged them out one by one with the assistance of his friends.

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